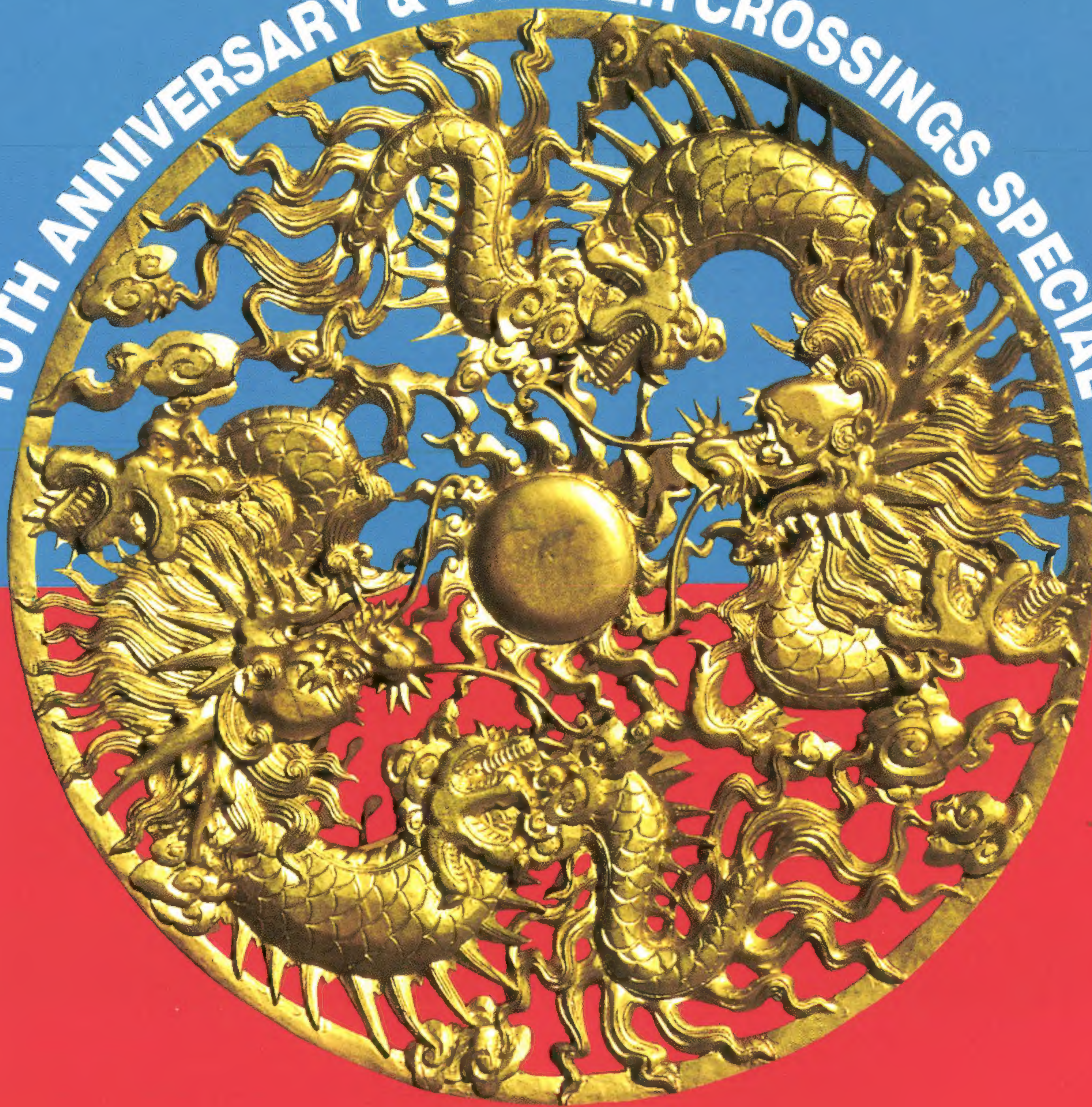


China

T O U R I S M

10TH ANNIVERSARY & BORDER CROSSINGS SPECIAL



121



CHINESE AND FOREIGN GOODS, FANCY OR PLAIN, FOR YOUR CHOICE

We have been in business for twenty-five years. Following a comprehensive renovation, our 80,000-square-metre centre now contains twenty departments offering more than 50,000 varieties of Chinese and foreign goods, including daily necessities, electrical appliances, furniture, jewellery, ornaments, books and paintings, arts and crafts, and Chinese medicines and tonics such as ginseng, pilose antler, etc.

In addition to retail sales, we also handle the following:

1. Provision of services for overseas enterprises and companies, imports and exports, commercial cooperation
2. Wholesale trade in Chinese and foreign goods
3. Warehousing, cold-storage and transport services
4. Special services for Overseas Chinese and compatriots from Taiwan and Hong Kong as well as for Chinese going abroad on business trips, whereby they can make payments in Hong Kong and collect the goods in China. A collection service is available in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Quanzhou, Shenzhen, Gongbei, Shantou, Haikou, Liusha, Kaiping and Meixian, and is applicable to the following articles: TV sets, refrigerators, washing machines, video recorders, radio/recorders, motorbikes, bicycles, sewing machines, electric fans, etc.

We would be happy to receive your visit. We also accept commissions by mail, telephone or other channels.

For overseas clients, an order can be made by mail with bank draft; the voucher necessary to collect purchases in China will be mailed back by return.



CHINESE GOODS CENTRE LTD.

395-421 King's Road, Hong Kong Tel: 5628271 (15 lines)

Fax: 5659367 Telex: 66368 CGC HX

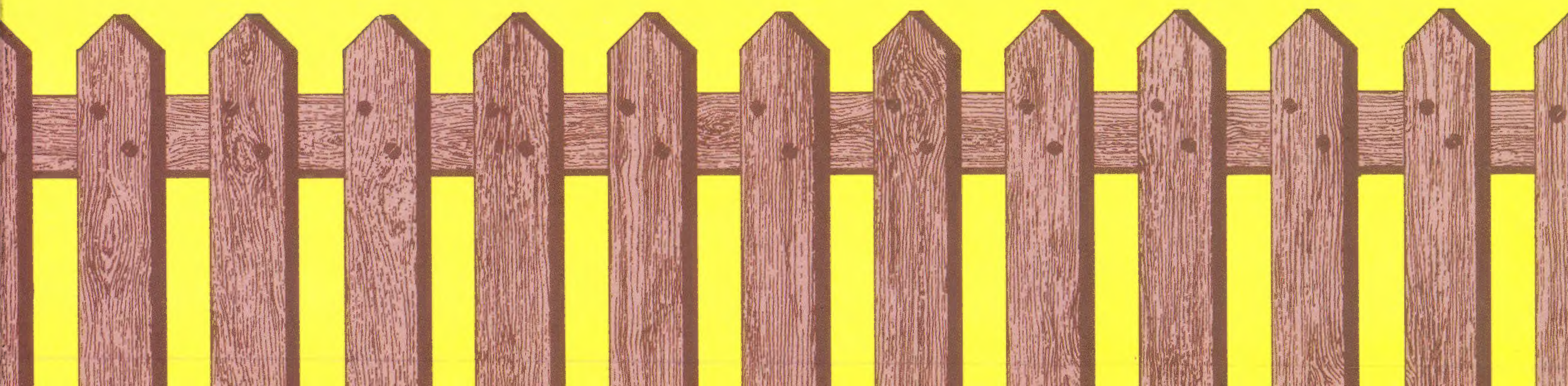
China Henan Cereals, Oils & Foodstuffs Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corp.



Henan Oils



Add: No. 115 Wenhua Road, Zhengzhou, China
Tel: 337648, 334355, 332781
Cable: 4752 YUFOOD ZHENGZHOU CHINA
Telex: 46066 HZCOF CN
Fax: 0371-334380



Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

CHINA NATIONAL SILK IMP. & EXP. CORP., GUANGDONG BRANCH

"AFIT" pure silk knitted underwear is the famous brand product dealt with by China National Silk Import and Export Corporation, Guangdong Branch. "AFIT" pure silk knitted underwear has won a high reputation and is well received in U.S.A., Japan and European markets. The products made of high quality natural fibres, mulberry silk, and finely processed have the excellent permeability, moisture, tensibility and high resilience. When wearing "AFIT" pure silk knitted underwear, you look slim, graceful

and elegant. The products are luxurious as well as practical. Pure silk fibre consists of 18 kinds of natural amino acids. For instance, leucine can accelerate cell metabolism and promote wound healing. Serine can prevent ageing of the skin.

Acetamine has the advantage of protection from sola radiation. when pure silk knitted diation. when pure silk underwear directttouches the skin, it can obsorb dust, impurities and moisture and it also possed the features of the permeability for air and moisture and fungi-proof. Pure silk knitted underwear can nourish andcare the skin. "AFIT" can make you healthier.



中國絲綢進出口總公司

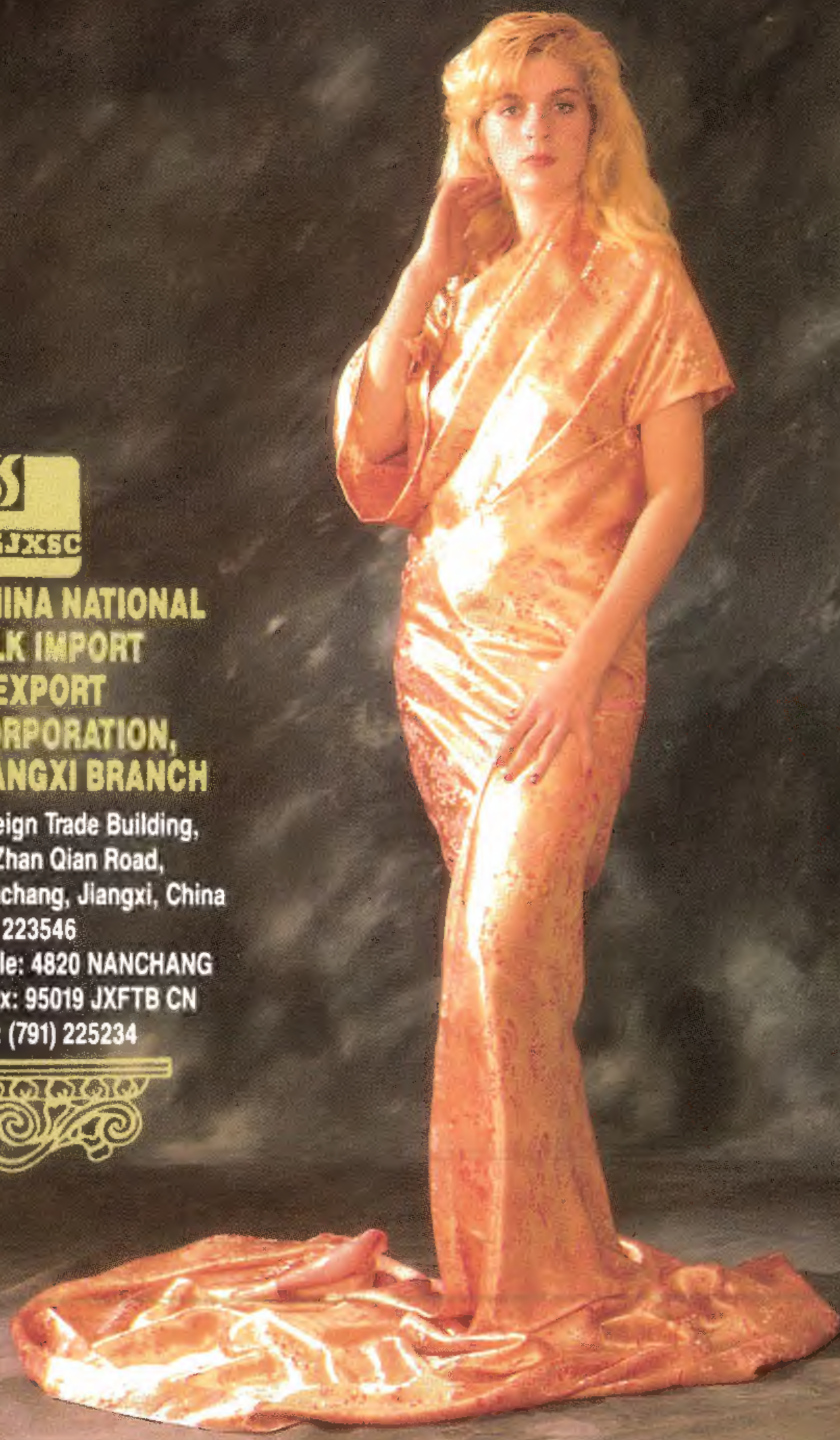
廣東省分公司

198, Dong Feng Road West, Guangzhou, China Tel: 3374488
Cable: "SILK" Guangzhou Telex: 44531 CSCGD/CN Fax: 332995



CHINA NATIONAL SILK IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION, JIANGXI BRANCH

Foreign Trade Building,
36 Zhan Qian Road,
Nanchang, Jiangxi, China
Tel: 223546
Cable: 4820 NANCHANG
Telex: 95019 JXFTB CN
Fax: (791) 225234



ZHEJIANG SILK



CHIC & ELEGANT



CHINA NATIONAL SILK IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION, ZHEJIANG BRANCH
55 Tiychang Road, Hangzhou, China Telex: 35016 TZCSB CN
Tel: 554249 Cable: ZJSILK HANGZHOU Fax: 558411

JIANGSU PURE SILK UNDERWEAR

"Begonia" pure silk underwear is a new line characterized by lightness and smoothness and by its properties of moisture absorption and ventilation. Our products, fashionable in style, are of exquisite workmanship and comfortable to wear. Orders and processing according to your samples are welcome!

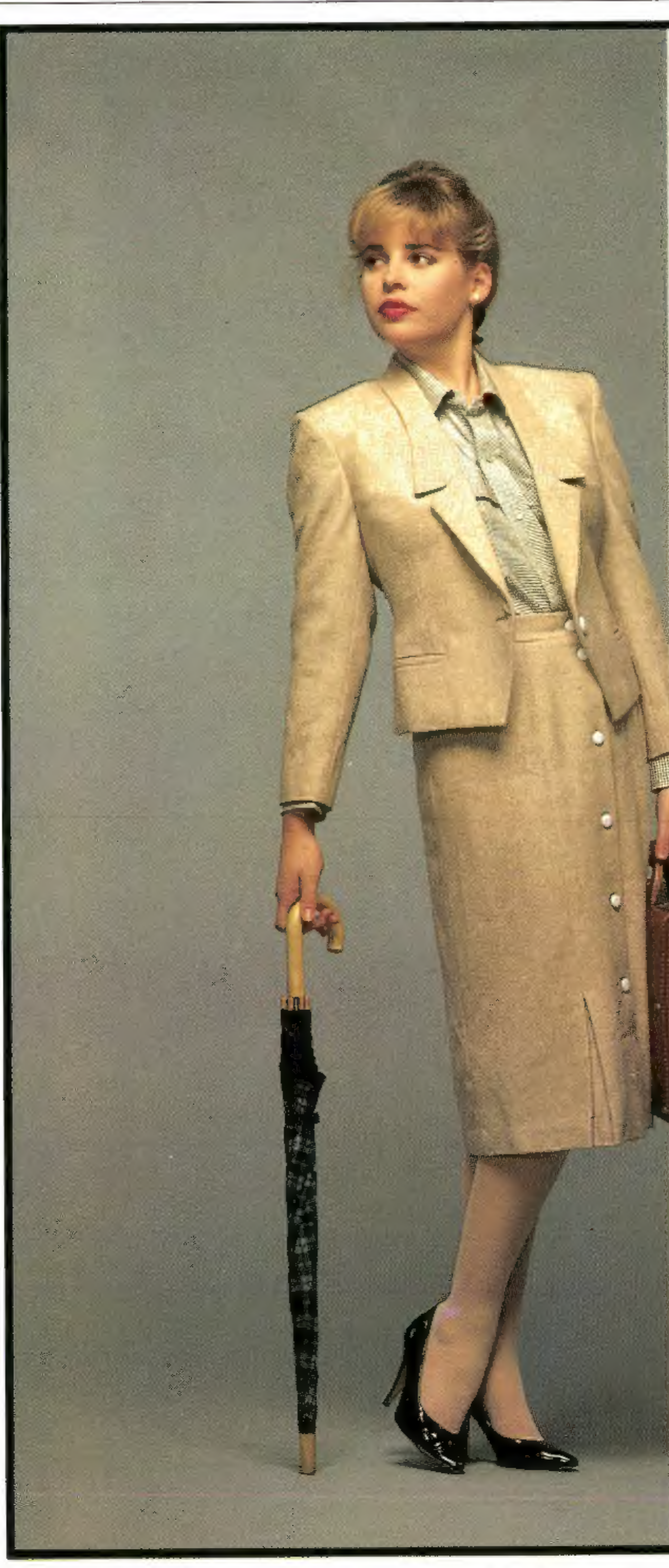


Begonia 海棠花
100%
PURE SILK
MADE IN JIANGSU CHINA HAND EMBROIDERED



CHINA NATIONAL SILK I/E CORP. JIANGSU BRANCH

Address: 50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China
Telex: 34107 SLKNK CN
Cable: CHISICORP NANJING
Telephone: 201745
Liaison Officer: Chen Zhen



SHENYENG GARMENTS

The scope of business is to import and export all kinds of garments of men, women and children, made of cotton, wool, ramie and synthetic fabrics, the fabric and subsidiary materials of garments, and knitting. Our branch undertakes business as importing materials, processing with your materials, compensation trade, textiles machines and garment equipment.

**SHENYANG
GARMENTS IMP. &
EXP. CORPORATION**

10/F., International Trade Bldg.,
No. 35, Youth Ave., Shenyang,
China.
Tel: 724061 724201
Cable: 1241 "Shenyang"
Fax: (024) 720778
Tlx: 80306 |STIEC CN
Postal Code: 110014

Shanghai Garments



Shanghai Garments Import & Export Corporation, the oldest and most experienced textile industry in China, tops the country's list of garment exports in respect of variety, style, quantity and total value.


With large numbers of experts involved in design and research work and with over 200 factories under its control, our company has established business relations with more than 1,000 clients in 800 countries and regions, and the majority of our products are sold in the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and many European countries.




SHANGHAI GARMENTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

1040 North Suzhou Road, Shanghai, China Tel: 3251000
Cable: "GARMENTS" Shanghai Telex: 33036 33056 GAREX CN
Fax: 3255148 3248349

Liaoning Shirts for Men and Women



Liaoning exports shirts for men and women made from cotton, synthetic and blended fabrics in parti-coloured, printed and jacquard designs. Meticulously tailored and offering plenty of variety, our products are fashionable and comfortable to wear. Orders and processing with supplied materials and sizes, patterns and styles welcomed.




LIAONING GARMENTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
11 Kun Ming Street, Dalian, China Cable: "GARMENTS" DALIAN
Telex: 86452 DLGMT CN Fax: 236092

JXG

JIANGXI GARMENTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Foreign Trade Building,
Zhanqian Road, Nanchang, China
Tel: 226611-828
Cable: 3102 Nanchang
Telex: 95219 CJXGB CN
Fax: (0791) 224319
Post Code: 330002



Business Scope:
Exquisitely tailored garments and semi-finished products made of cotton, wool, linen and blended fabrics for men, women and children.

We sincerely wish to establish any form of business relations with clients all over the world — joint ventures, co-management, rental service, agency, processing with supplied materials and samples or brand names, and compensation trade.

We offer best service and warmly welcome your orders and business discussions.

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

Jiangsu Garments — Booming Export Trade

Our company is famed for its excellently tailored garments made from top-quality materials, its good service and its flexible forms of business. In recent years it has been developing even more rapidly.

Business Scope

Shirts for men, women and children, suits, carcoats, jackets, trousers, windcheaters, robes, underwear, short gowns, overalls and garments accessories made of woven materials, as well as garments made of other materials. Processing with supplied materials, clients' samples or brands also welcomed.



China Jiangsu Garments Imp. & Exp. (Group) Corporation

185 Zhu Jiang Road, Nanjing, China
Tel: 714688 Cable: "GARMENTS" Nanjing
Telex: 34073, 342263 & 34113 GMTNJ CN
Fax: (025) 714707 / (025) 714741



ZHEJIANG GARMENTS

Zhejiang Garments I/E Corporation, located in one of the world renowned tourist cities — Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, is a professional company specialized in trading garments.

The corporation exports various kinds of men's wear, ladies' wear, and children's wear made of fabrics like cotton fabrics, woollen fabrics, linen fabrics, polyester fabrics, and cotton, wool, silk, linen, or man-made fiber blended fabrics, as well as accessories for garment industry.

On the other hand, we import garment fabrics, accessories, packaging materials, and garment's production equipment, and contract orders of processing supplied raw materials to buyers' specifications, processing imported raw materials, and compensation trade, etc.

ZHEJIANG GARMENTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.

No. 18 Xixia Ling Beishan Road, Hangzhou, China
Tel: 771424-255
Cable: 0749 HANGZHOU
Fax: 0571-771761 722934
Telex: 351080 351081 GMTHZ CN

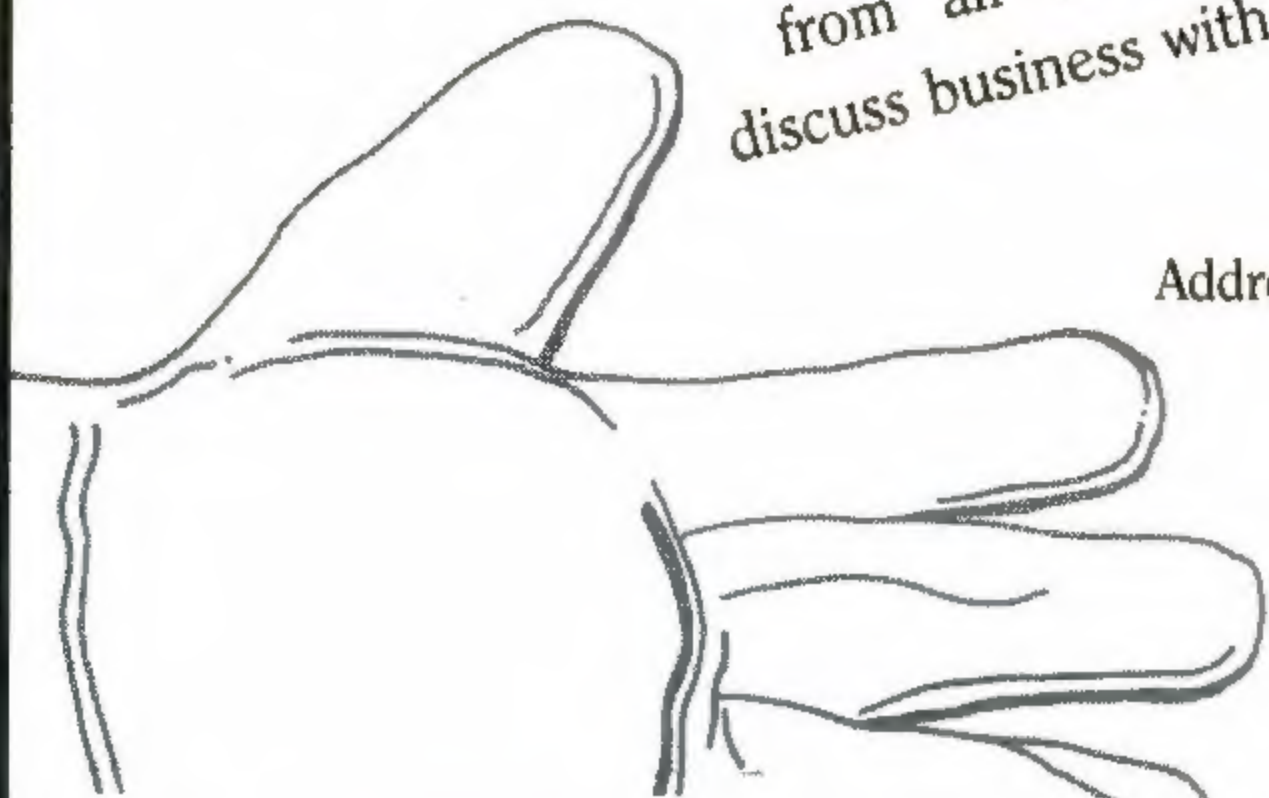
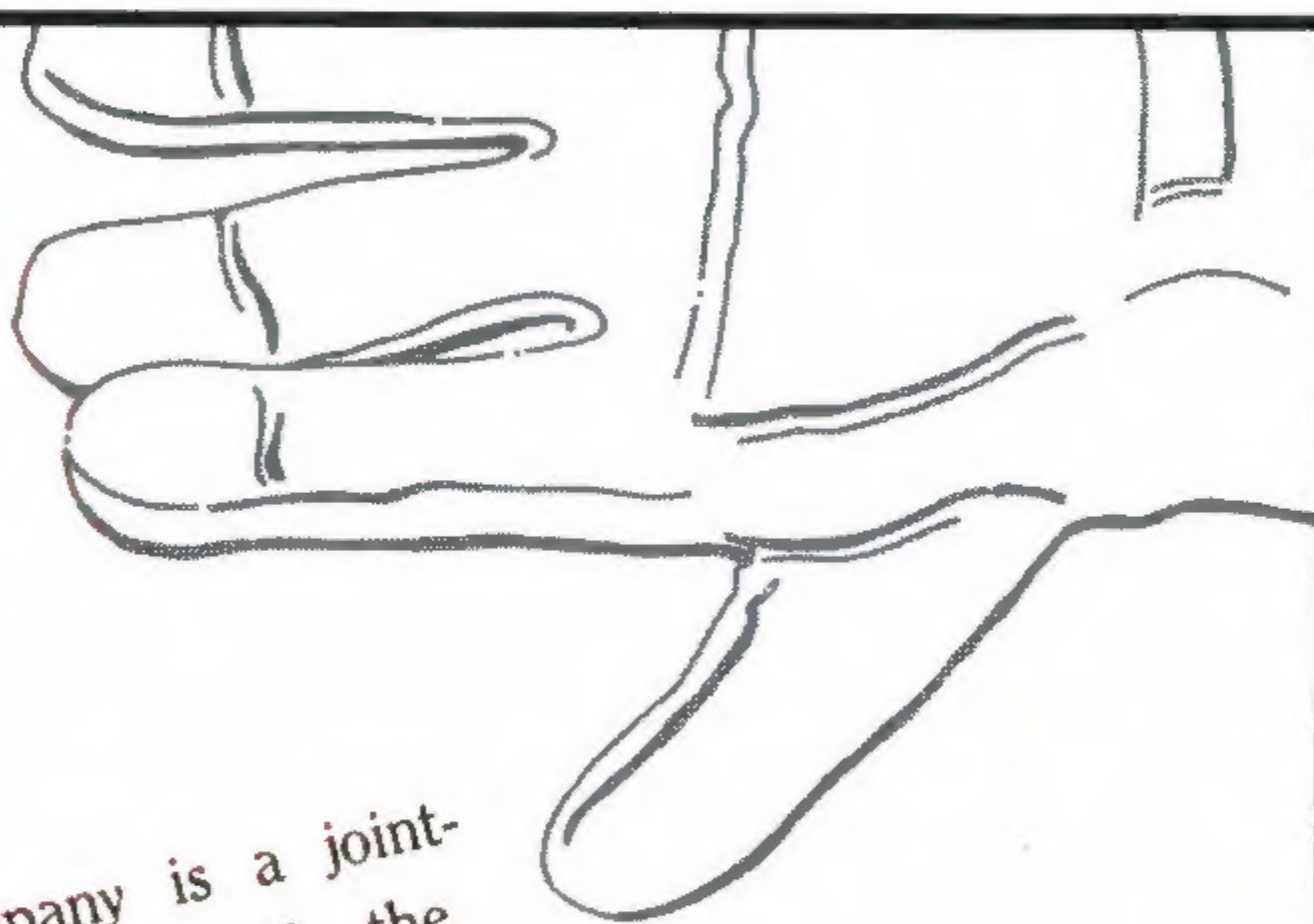


HONG TIAN COTTON TEXTILES CO., LTD SHANTOU SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, GUANG DONG

Our company is a joint-venture enterprise with the status of a legal person. We produce and export pure cotton seamless gloves with imported high-speed all-automatic weaving machines. With good permeability and comfortable to wear, our products are ideal to protect workers' hands.

We warmly invite friends from all over the world to discuss business with us.

Address: Zhuhu Processing District, S.E.Z.
Tel: 264620, 264621
Fax: 261072
Cable: 0557
Telex: 45407 GOOCO CN



TIANJIN GARMENTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.



164 Jiefang Road, Tianjin, China
Tel: 316324, 751191
Telex: 23153 TJGAR CN
Contact Persons: Yu Jin Ling,
Meng Tong



Hubei Textiles Imp. & Exp. Corporation

Our main business scope is cotton yarn and fabrics, polyester/cotton yarn and fabrics, ramie/cotton yarn and fabrics, cotton prints, T/C prints, etc. We also undertake processing with supplied materials. We warmly welcome friends from all over the world to discuss business with us.



General Manager: Zhao Tieping
Vice General Managers: Ji Te, Zhang Shaolin
17F., Hubei Jinmao Building,
8 North Jiangnan Road,
Wuhan, Hubei, China
Tel: 562042 561179
Cable: "TEXTILE" WUHAN
Telex: 40106 HBNTC CN
Fax: 564196



Textiles commodities handled for export by Shenyang Textiles Import & Export Corporation include various kinds of high-grade worsted piece goods and woollen piece goods, synthetic and blended fabrics; various kinds of cotton grey cloth, bleached, dyed and yarn-dyed cloth, printed cloth and bed sheeting; various kinds of knitwear, cotton goods and woollen products; various kinds of men's, ladies' and children's garments made of all kinds of fabrics for all seasons. We warmly welcome clients to visit us here to discuss trade.



SHENYANG TEXTILES IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION

ADD: 19 South Sanjing St., Shenhe District, Shenyang, China
Tel: (024) 727478 290623 23066 22095
26597 28356 22019 21893
Telex: 804047 TIECS CN
Cabbble: 0992 SHENYANG
Fax: (024) 21993 'Postcode: 110014

JIANGSU TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORP.



Ramie/Cotton Yarns and Fabrics from Jiangsu

Our new export items include:

- 11 S/2 ramie/cotton yarn (ramie 55%, cotton 45%);
- 32 N/1, 36 N/1 yarn;
- 11X11 51X47 48.5" grey ramie/ cotton fabric (ramie 55%, cotton 45%);
- 21X19 51X58 48.5" grey ramie/ cotton mixed fabric (ramie weft, cotton warp);
- 21X21 54X60 48.5" grey ramie/ cotton mixed fabric (ramie weft, cotton warp);
- 21X21 52X58 50.5" grey ramie fabric;
- 21X21 58X60 50.5" grey ramie fabric;
- 21X21 60X60 51" grey ramie fabric;

in addition to ramie/cotton dyed fabrics, napkins, tea towels, etc. We warmly welcome clients the world over to contact us or visit us in person in Nanjing.



Address: 29 Beijing Road East, Nanjing, China
Tel: 714726
Telex: 34117 TXTNJ CN
Cable: CHINATEX NANJING
Fax: 711475

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM



Jiangxi Knitwears & Manufactured Goods Import & Export Corp.

Foreign Trade Building, Zhangqian Road, Nanchang, Jiangxi, China
Tel: 62715, 226611-802, 804 Cable: 4803 NANCHANG
Telex: 95237 JXKMG CN Fax: (0791) 224845
General Manager: Zhang Shaofang

廣東省紡織品進出口(集團)花紗布公司 Guangdong Textiles Import & Export Group Cotton, Yarn & Piece-Goods Company



Business Scope

Cotton, cotton yarn, T/C yarn, ramie yarn (ramie/cotton yarn), grey cotton fabrics, grey T/C fabrics, grey ramie fabrics (or ramie/cotton and mixed fabrics), and other kinds of yarn, bleached, piece-dyed, printed, and yarn-dyed fabrics, denim, non-woven cloth, lining cloth, furnishing and upholstery fabrics, mosquito netting, fabrics of wool, knitted fabrics for domestic, military and industrial use made of natural, chemical and mixed fibres. The company also engages in import and export of accessories, dyes and chemicals, packing materials as well as technology and equipment for yarn and fabrics production and processing.

Besides the import and export business, the company undertakes the manufacture of products with imported materials or with clients' materials, samples, brands and patterns, compensation trade, counter trade, barter trade, leasing, consulting and agency services, as well as joint ventures, co-management and domestic sales.



Address: 13-18/F., East Wing, Dong Jian Building,
503 Dong Feng Zhong Road, Guangzhou, China
Tel: 350306
Cable: "3890" Guangzhou
Telex: 441103 GDTEX CN Fax: 350397

"CHINESE TRUMPET CREEPER" POLYESTER-COTTON YARN AND FABRICS

The pure polyester yarn, Trueran yarn and fabrics handled by our corporation are made from fine quality polyester fibre and choice raw cotton. Pure polyester yarn is supplied in 2-ply, 3-ply and 4-ply in hanks or on cones. Blends of Trueran yarn and cloth are available in many different ratios. Carded or combed T/C yarn is supplied in single or 2-ply. Also available is waxed yarn on cones.

T/C cloth comes in various categories including grey, white, dyed, printed, yarn-dyed, etc. Available are varieties of sheeting, shirting, lawn, poplin, voile, seersucker, Oxford, tussore, jean, drill, dobby, sateen and corduroy, etc.

The printed, dyed and yarn-dyed Trueran fabrics present attractive designs, colour brilliancy and a large selection of shades, thus creating an elegant style. With resin, permanent press, water-repellent and silky finish, the fabrics feel crisp, glossy, soft and comfortable. They have won great popularity among customers and are best sellers all over the world. Requests for samples and quotations are welcome.



ZHEJIANG TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION,

Zhejiang Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Bldg.
102 Fengqi Road, Hangzhou, China
Cable: TEXTILES HANGZHOU Tel: 557532
Telex: 35026 350223 TEX CN Fax: 554046 Postcode: 310006



"Golden Butterfly" Brand Yarn-Dyed Shirting

Superior quality, excellent variety, novel designs and bright colours. This famous high-quality product is created by our corporation.



SHANGHAI TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Address: 27 Zhongshan Road
(E. 1), Shanghai, China
Tel: 3218400
Cable: "TEXTILE" Shanghai or
"4444" Shanghai
Telex: 33055 SHTEX CN
Fax: (021) 3218467, (021) 3291267





Liaoning Knitwear

Made from quality materials in unique styles



The Gazelle and Gold Fan brand knitwear exported from Liaoning are made from pure cotton, polyester-cotton and acrylic-cotton blends, elastic nylon, and other blended materials. Exports include underwear, coats, pyjamas, sportswear, socks, gloves, etc. Your orders are welcome.

LIAONING TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

No. 3 Yimin Street, Dalian, China Tel: 235005

Cable: 2718 CHINATEX DALIAN Telex: 86233 LDTEX CN Fax: 0411-239615



EXPORT:

Yarn-dyed piece goods, all kinds of bleached fabrics, dyed fabrics, printed calicos, napkins, etc.

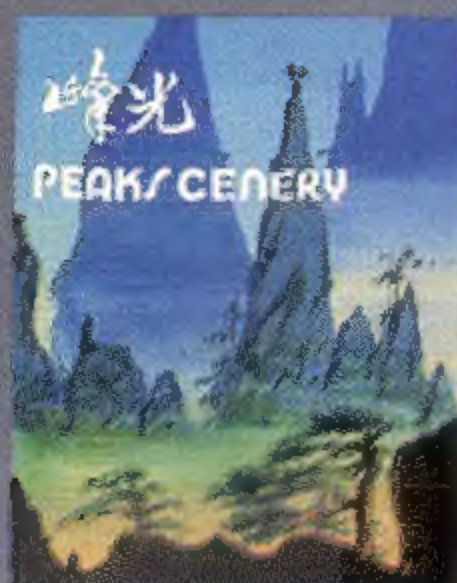


SHANGHAI NEW UNION TEXTILES IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

1341 Yu Yuan Road, Shanghai, P.R. China

Tel: 2511532 Fax: 86-21-2510701, 86-21-2526610

Tlx: 33370 NUTEX CN Cbl: "NUTEX" SHANGHAI



ANHUI TEXTILES IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION (GROUP)

194 Jinzhai Road, Hefei, Anhui, China

Tel: 332178 Cable: 0756

Telex: 90015 AHTEX CN

Fax: 0551-332380

"PEAK SCENERY"
Printed Fabrics from Anhui



"Guro" Cotton
Textiles from Anhui

ANHUI TEXTILES IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION (GROUP)

194 Jinzhai Road, Hefei, Anhui, China

Tel: 332383 Cable: 0756

Telex: 90015 AHTEX CN Fax: 0551-332380

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM



**Throw your fig-leaf away!
It's no longer indispensable**

A great choice of quality knitwear from China's larger supplier — Shanghai Knitwear Imp. & Exp. Corporation

Scope of Business

- 1 Sundry knitted inner and outer wear as well as garments made of cotton, linen, synthetic and blended fibres.
- 2 Sundry woollen inner and outer wear made of animal hairs such as wool, cashmere, rabbit hair; synthetic and blended fibres.
- 3 Sundry gloves, socks and scarves made of cotton, wool and synthetic fibres.
- 4 Import and export of all kinds of knitted yarns, woollen yarns and knitted fabrics.



SHANGHAI KNITWEAR IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION
1040 NORTH SUZHOU ROAD,
SHANGHAI, CHINA
TEL: 3251000
CABLE: 'KNITWEAR' SHANGHAI
TELEX: 33319 KNITS CN
FAX: 3245618

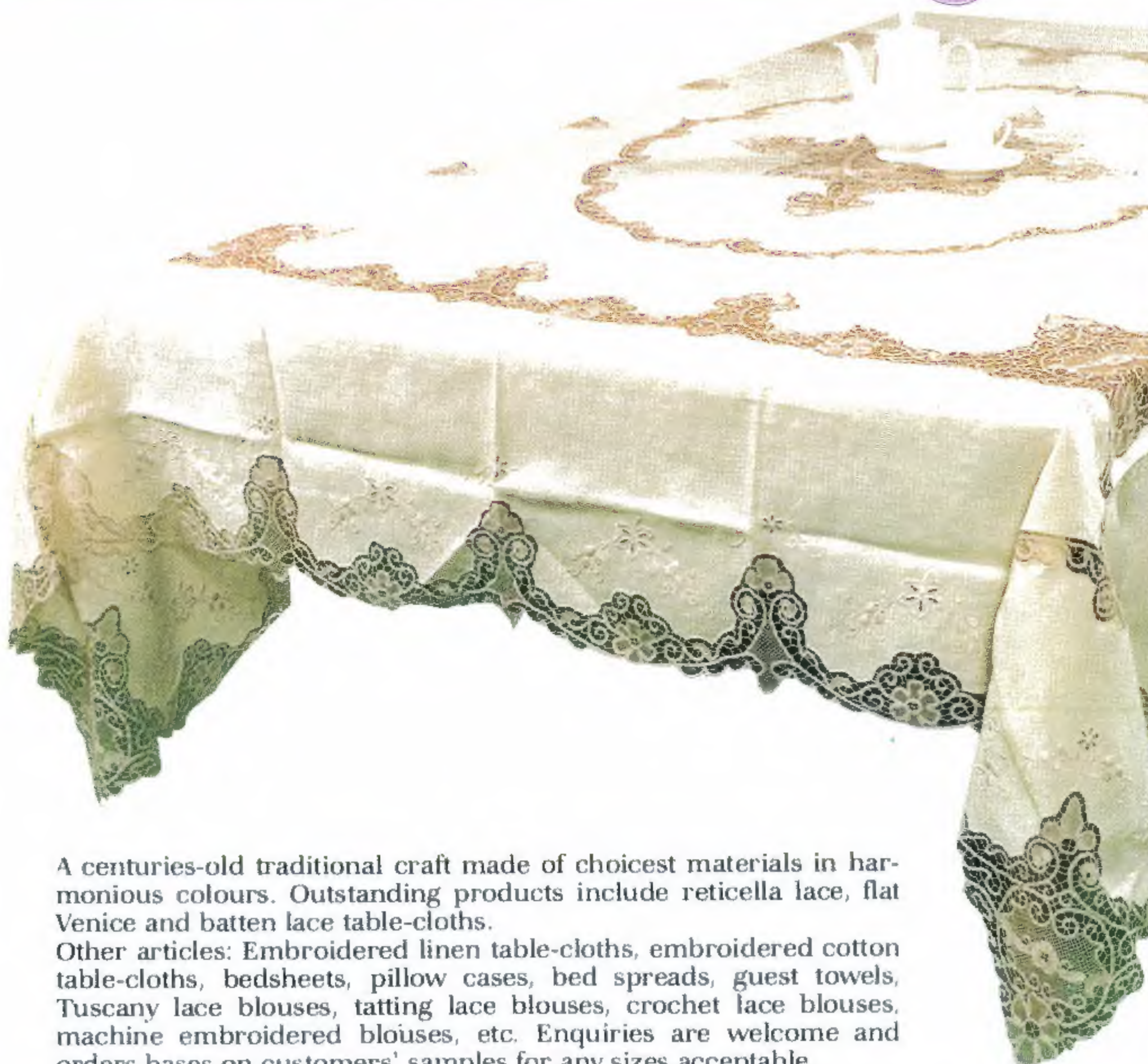


The Shanghai Handkerchiefs Import & Export Corporation is a sole specialized enterprise dealing with the export of handkerchiefs. Our products are famous for their exquisite workmanship and packaging, wide range of varieties and specifications. We handle more than 80% of China's total exports in this field, and our products sell well in over ninety countries and regions throughout the world. We also export all kinds of polyester shawls, scarves, mufflers, neckties, face towels, bedsheets, thread and lace, knitwear, garments, etc; we import primary materials, secondary materials and production equipment; and we handle processing with imported and supplied materials, compensation trade and export of labour.




**SHANGHAI HANDKERCHIEFS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.**
Add: 80 Shan Xi Road N.,
Shanghai, China
Tel: 2581026
Telex: 33109 HANEX CN
Fax: 86-21-2536690
Cable: HANCHIEF SHANGHAI

SHANDONG DRAWNWORK



A centuries-old traditional craft made of choicest materials in harmonious colours. Outstanding products include reticella lace, flat Venice and batten lace table-cloths. Other articles: Embroidered linen table-cloths, embroidered cotton table-cloths, bedsheets, pillow cases, bed spreads, guest towels, Tuscany lace blouses, tatting lace blouses, crochet lace blouses, machine embroidered blouses, etc. Enquiries are welcome and orders bases on customers' samples for any sizes acceptable.



**CHINA ARTEX (HOLDINGS) CORPORATION
SHANDONG COMPANY**
22 Deng Zhou Road, Qingdao, China Tel: 227582, 228584
Telex: 32143 NPYQD CN Cable: 2132 QINGDAO

Garden 園林
MADE IN CHINA

**HIGH QUALITY
EXCELLENT SERVICE**

"Garden" Brand Scarves are made of woollen, angora and acrylic yarn in plain colours, yarn dyed stripes and jacquard, by using both machine-knit and hand-knit, according to specifications provided by buyers. Also available are 2-pc sets of scarf and cap, and 3-pc set of sweater, scarf and cap, etc.

"Garden" Brand also used for all kinds of woollen knitweares for men, ladies and children. Inquiries are welcome.

China Jiangsu Knitwear & Home Textiles I/E (Group) Corp.
Advertisement Dept. Mr. SHI ZHI WEI
Address: 50 Zhong Hua Road,
Nanjing, China
Telex: 34047 KNIT CN
Fax No: 8625-202345 China




"Panda" Brand Bath Towel

Made of 100% first grade cotton yarn; having two main ranges, twisted loop towels and sheared towels; available in plain colours, fiber reactive prints, with embroideries, and/or satin bands or satin borders. Awarded "Certificate of Excellent Export Product" by Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations & Trade, for its tight weave, fancy colours, smooth piles, exquisite printing, soft touch, tidy appearance and excellent quality. Specification: made to order. Packing: Polybag/carton/bale.



Shanghai Home Textiles Import & Export Corporation
18 Zhong Shan Road E 1, Shanghai, China, Tel: 3218500
Cable: "HOMETEX" SHANGHAI
Telex: 33329 HOMEX CN Fax: 0086 21 3290096



100% ANGORA RABBIT HAIR CLOTHINGS

*Warm, Attractive &
Comfortably Soft
Angora Clothing
for Fitness
& Health*



**ZHEJIANG ANIMAL
BY-PRODUCTS
IMP. & EXP. CORP.**

80 Ti Yu Chang Road,
Hangzhou, China
Tel: 0571-550290, 576248
Cable: ZJABPIEB HANGZHOU
Telex: 35022 TTTPB CN
Fax: 0571-556457, 571939
Mail No: 310004



ZHEJIANG KNITWEAR & HOME TEXTILES I/E CORP.

Main Exports

Vests, T-shirts, cotton interlock singlets and trousers, sport shirts;

Men's and women's woollen sweaters, Angora sweaters, acrylic sweaters and woollen gloves of all types;

Cotton face towels, face cloths, bath towels, sheets, pillowcases, terry tea towels, handkerchiefs, bath mats, etc.

Business negotiations and orders welcomed.

Foreign Economic Relations & Trade Bldg.,
No. 102 Fengqi Road, Hangzhou, China
Cable: TEXTILES HANGZHOU
Tel: 557532
Telex: 35044 KNITW CN Fax: 554400

Jiangxi Animal By-Products Import & Export Corporation is a professional enterprise handling the import and export of animal by-products and their related commodities.

With a long history in foreign trade, our corporation has been adhering to the principle of "abiding to contracts and keeping good faith" and offering best service to trade partners all over the world. Our major commodities include feather and down products, fur and fur garments, leather and leather garments, dried cow hides, salted cow hides, dried pig casings, salted pig casings, bristles, bristle brushes, rabbit hair, rabbit hair yarn, silk carpets, artificial silk carpets and animal feedstuffs, etc. Besides, we also engage in such business as processing with supplied samples, drawings or materials, compensation trade, as well as investment, joint ventures and import agent, etc.



Jiangxi Animal By-Products Import & Export Corporation

7/F, Foreign Trade Building, 60 Zhan Qian Road, Nanchang, Jiangxi, China
Tel: 222317 Cable: 3964 XUCHAN Telex: 95047 JXNAT CN
Fax: (791) 221419 Post Code: 330002

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

CHINA NATIONAL NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AT HOME & ABROAD

**SUBSIDIARIES (direct under
Head Office):**
**CHINA TIMBER IMPORT
& EXPORT CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22898 TUHSU CN,
22236 TIMEX CN
Tel: (01) 512-4765,
(01) 512-6928
Fax: (01) 512-4788

**CHINA TEA IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22899 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4192,
(01) 512-4785
Fax: (01) 512-4775

**CHINA FLOWER IMPORT &
EXPORT CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 210204 CFCO CN
Tel: (01) 512-4193,
(01) 512-4678
Fax: (01) 512-4685

**CHINA FEEDING STUFFS
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 210203 CHFS CN
Tel: (01) 512-4738,
(01) 512-1887

**CHINA CARPET IMPORT &
EXPORT CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22896 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4192,
(01) 512-4188,
(01) 512-4183
Fax: (01) 512-4592

**CHINA INTERIOR DESIGN &
DECORATION MATERIALS
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 222710 SURDD CN
Tel: (01) 512-4606,
(01) 512-4607
Fax: (01) 512-4606

**CHINA (TUHSU) SUPER FOOD
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22892 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4718,
(01) 55-3827

**CHINA (TUHSU) FOREST
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS IMPORT
& EXPORT CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22893 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4721

**CHINA (TUHSU) SUNDRIES
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22891 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 55-5768,
(01) 55-8831 ext. 555
Fax: (01) 512-4324

**CHINA (TUHSU) FLAVOUR &
FRAGRANCES IMPORT &
EXPORT CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22893 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4319,
(01) 55-8831 ext. 507
Fax: (01) 512-4319

**CHINA (TUHSU) FUR &
LEATHER IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22895 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4731,
(01) 55-4727
Fax: (01) 55-4727

**CHINA (TUHSU) FEATHER
PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22897 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4741,
(01) 55-7545,
(01) 55-8831 ext. 517

**CHINA (TUHSU) A.B.C.
TRADING COMPANY**
Address: 82 Dong'anmen
Dajie, Beijing, China
Telex: 22894 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 512-4726,
(01) 512-4375,
(01) 55-8831
ext. 562 and 572



CHINA NATIONAL NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION HEAD OFFICE

Address: 82 Dong'anmen Dajie, Beijing, China
Cable: CHINATUHSU BEIJING 4278 BEIJING
Telex: 22283 TUHSU CN
Tel: (01) 55-4124, (01) 55-3808
Fax: (01) 512-1626

ZHEJIANG NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.



Scope of Business:

- Forestal Products
- Jute and Plastic Products
- Dried Fruits & Vegetables
- Bamboo & Wooden Products
- Handknotted Carpets & Rugs
- Animal By-Products
- Other Products



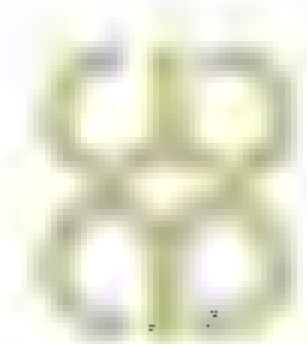
Deputy General Manager:
Mr. GONG RONG XIANG
8th-9th floor, Economic Trade
Building, 102 Fengqi Road,
Hangzhou, China
Telex: 35013/351054 TUHSU CN
Fax: 86 571-552310
Cable: "CHINA TUHSU"
HANGZHOU
Tel: 557532



CORDIALLY EXTEND THE BEST SERVICE TO CLIENTS AND FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD

Business Line:

Woollen carpets, silk rugs, velveteen rugs, goat skins, snake leather and its products, pig leathers, leather garments, mink skins, weasel skins, Chekiang lamb skins, fur plates, fur garments, feather and down products, angora rabbit hair, rabbit hair yarn, goat hair for pen brushes, bristles, bristle brushes, and casings, etc.



China Jiangsu Animal By-Products Import & Export (Group) Corp.

ADD: 50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China Cable: BY PRODUCTS NANJING TEL: 201138
TELEX: 34148 ABPNJ CN 342282 ABPNJ CN FAX: (025)- 201624 (025)-202064





GUANGDONG ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

48 South Street, Shamian,
Guangzhou, China
Tel: 886018 Fax: 862442
Cable: "BYPRODUCTS"
GUANGZHOU CHINA 3964
Telex: 44373 KABB CN



Guangdong Animal By-Products Imp. & Exp. Corporation is a specialised foreign trade company which handles the import and export business of Guangdong light industrial products. The company set up 20 offices in Guangdong Province and established 3 joint-ventures in Hong Kong. Besides there are representatives appointed by the company in Australia and the United States.

The company set up several production systems which provide quality products for it through various kinds of operation.

The company has operated for over 30 years and has established business contacts with over 100 firms and companies all over the world. The products of the company are exported to over 50 countries and regions.

The products which the company handled are: feather and down products, rabbit hair and rabbit hair yarn, fancy-feather products, leather and leather garments, glue and gelatine, brushes, casings, carpets, animal feedstuffs and fertilizers.

The company also handles business of processing with supplied materials and samples, assembly with supplied parts and compensation trade.

Enquiries and orders are welcome.

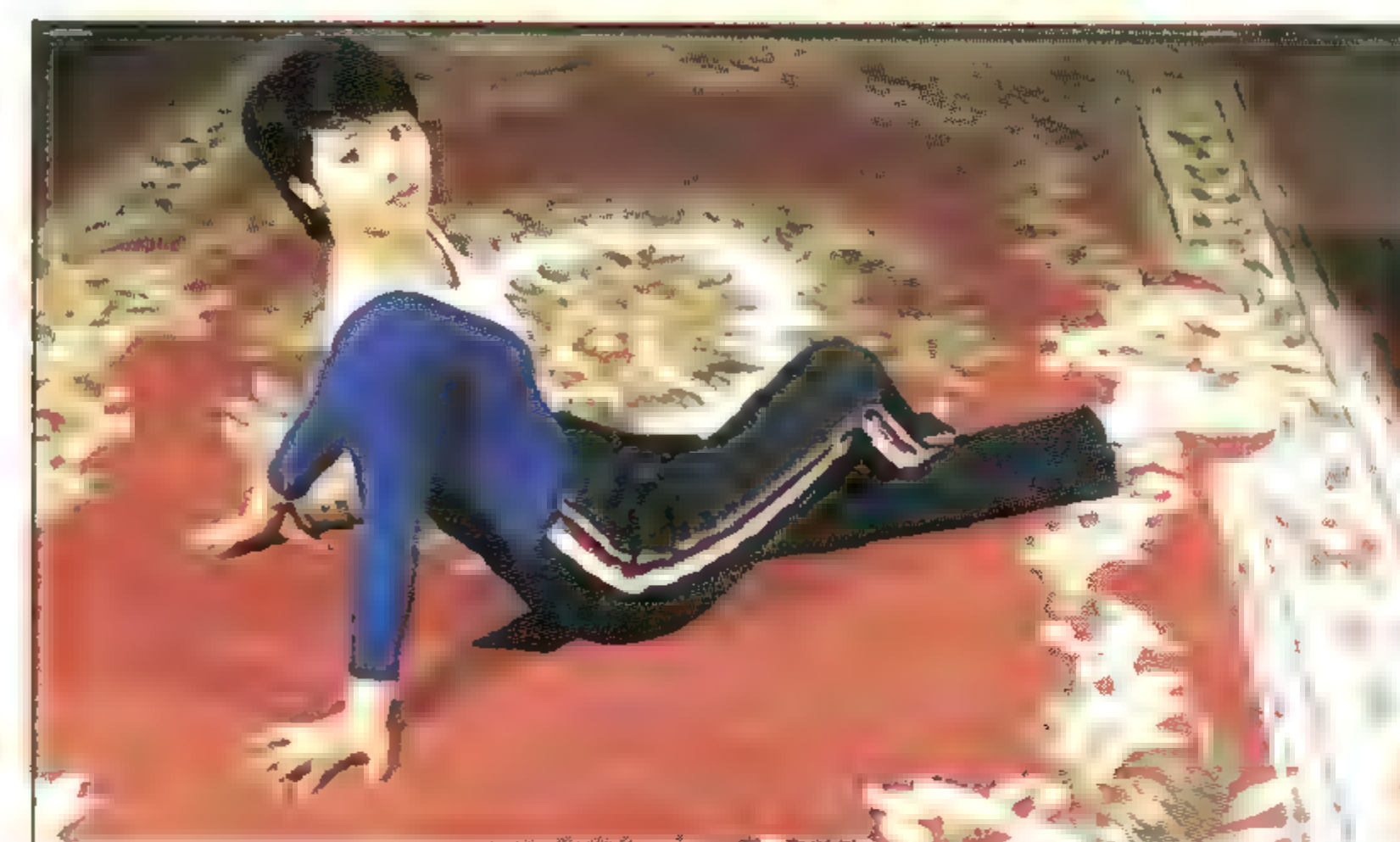
Henan Dehydrated Vegetables



Sliced onion
Shredded carrot,
carrot in granules
Garlic flakes,
garlic powder
Shredded ginger, etc

Henan Jute and Blended Fibre Carpets

Brighten up
your room!



CHINA HENAN NATIVE PRODUCE I/E (GROUP) CORPORATION

115 Wenhua Road, Zhengzhou, China
Cable: 5509 ZHENGZHOU Fax: 337446
Telex: 46047 HNTPB CN



LIAONING NATIVE PRODUCE IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORPORATION

ADDRESS: 139, STALIN ROAD, DALIAN, CHINA
CABLE: "PRODAIREN" DALIAN TEL: 234784
TELEX: 86155 PRO CN FAX: 0411 - 235432



'Rainbow' candles from Shenyang include taper, spiral, pillar shapes, tea warmer candles, joss candles, household candles, as well as various art candles. Various decorative pendants and cushions made of wooded beads can also be supplied. We can produce according to your samples as well.



CHINA NATIONAL NATIVE PRODUCE & ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORA- TION, SHENYANG BRANCH

THIRD FLOOR OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE BUILDING,
35 THE YOUTH STREET, SHENYANG, CHINA
ZIP CODE: 110014 TEL: 724669 724727
TELEX: 80067 CSCAC CN CABLE: 1199 SHENYANG
FAX: 724671

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CHINA TOURISM 10th Anniversary

An ideal
travelling companion



Hubei Province Native Produce Import & Export Corporation

Address: 8 Jiang Han North Road, Wuhan, China
Tel: 565102, 562821-2606
Cable: "PROWUHAN" HANKOU
Telex: 40113 HBNPC CN
Fax: 027-564476, 027-562943
Post Code: 430022

Jiangsu "JINLING" Brand Fireworks & Firecrackers

"Jinling" brand fireworks and firecrackers are exported by China Jiangsu Native Produce Import and Export (Group) Corporation. They are available in many varieties, including aerial and projectiles, rockets, floral shells, revolving ground fountain and suspension as well as hand-holding toy types. All the products feature unique stylings, bright colours and pleasing sounds. Orders and enquiries from traders the world over are warmly welcome.



CHINA JIANGSU NATIVE PRODUCE IMPORT & EXPORT (GROUP) CORPORATION

50 Zhonghua Road, Nanjing, China Tel: 201145
Cable: "CHINAPROCO" NANJING
Telex: 34108 NPANJ CN Fax: 025-201613

SHANDONG ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS I/E CORP.

'Taishan Brand' Writing Brushes have a long history. The tips of the writing brushes are made of extracted materials such as high-grade goat's hair, weasel's tail hair, rabbit's hair and fox's tail hair, all with perfect workmanship entailing about 70 kinds of working procedures such as combing, padding, rounding, etc. The shafts of the writing brushes are made of fernleaf hedge bamboo and mottled bamboo inlaid black ox horn. The writing brushes, with their new fashions and styles, and mellow, full and springy tips, are really the finest available for writing and painting. 'Taishan Brand' Writing Brushes have been awarded the honourable title of best writing brush by many artists. Enquiries and orders are welcome.

24, HUBEI ROAD, QINGDAO,
CHINA Postcode: 266001
Tel: 283739
Cable: BYPRODUCTS QINGDAO
Telex: 32226 NATQD CN
Fax: 0532-279861



CHINA TOURISM 10th Anniversary

Popular all over the world



Hubei Province Animal By-Products Import & Export Corporation

56 Dong Ting Street, Wuhan, China
Tel: 027-27331 Telex: 40111 HBNPA CN
Cable: BYPRODUCTS WUHAN Fax: (027) 511135



Chocolates from Shanghai

SF high-grade chocolates are made from quality materials. Fine, smooth and mellow in taste. Brightly packaged in a unique style.

Specifications: 8 boxes × 12 bags × 100g.
16 boxes × 12 bags × 100g.
4 boxes × 12 bags × 200g.

Orders and inquiries welcome



Shanghai Foodstuffs
Imp. & Exp. Corp.
26 Zhongshan Road E. 1.,
Shanghai, China
Tel: 3216233
Telex: 33070 FOODS CN
Fax: 0086-21-3291730

There is a story famous at home and abroad.

In the classical novel *Water Margin* Wu Song fought a tiger with bare hands on Jingyang Ridge, Yanggu County, Shandong Province, after drinking some rice spirit. Our spirit is made with a combination of traditional technology, which made the local historic spirit "San Wan Bu Guo Gang" and "Tou Ping Xiang", and modern brew technology. It is distilled from high quality rice, millet, wheat and Chinese sorghum. The spirit is clear and fragrant, with a pleasant after taste.

In 1987, it won the prize for "High Quality Wine" in Shandong Province.

In 1988, it won the "Golden Prize" at the "China First Wine Culture Festival", and the "Golden Prize" at the "China First Food Fair".



景陽岡陳釀
JINGYANGGANG
Mellow Liquor



Shandong Foodstuffs Imp. & Exp. Corp.

70 Zhongshan Road, Qingdao, China Tel: 283380 Telex: 32122 FOOD CN
Cable: "FOODSTUFFS" QINGDAO Fax: (0532) 270817

HSUJI GROUNDNUTS GROWING TO THE WORLD

HSUJI



CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION, SHANDONG CEREALS & OILS BRANCH
29 Wusong Road, Qingdao, China Post Code: 266011 Tel: 228063
Cable: "NACEROIL" QINGDAO Telex: 321190 COBQD CN Fax: 226330

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Choose ours—it will be the best!

Founded in 1953 to handle specially the import and export of cereals and oils our company, with favourable conditions such as a special railway line, two 10,000-ton docks in Shanghai, and rich experience in foreign trade, has established co-operative relations with 1,200 clients in over one hundred countries and regions.


Our export items include cereals, beans and peas, oils, oil seed, animal feeds, cereal and oil products, light industrial products, chemicals, mechanical and electrical products as well as all others exclusive of state-centralized merchandise. We also undertake import and export agency services, joint ventures, co-management and consulting.

**CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS
IMP. & EXP. CORP., SHANGHAI CEREALS & OILS BRANCH**
11, Hankou Road, Shanghai, China Tel: 3219760
Cable: CHINAFAT Telex: 33032 COFSH CN Fax: 3248856 Post Code: 200002

Business Scope:
Groundnut Kernels
Groundnut In-shell
Groundnut Products
Groundnut Oil
Vermicelli



**YANTAI CEREALS & OILS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION**
21 Haizhen Road, Yantai, China
Tel: 3460431/3461222
Cable: 4744 Yantai Telex: 35027 YANTAI CN
Fax: 3512424




**CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS,
OILS & FOODSTUFFS
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**

Scope of business:
Cereals, beans and peas, animal fats, feedstuffs, edible vegetable oils and vegetable oils for industrial use (including tung oil), oil seeds, bean cakes, salt, sugar, live poultry, livestock, frozen meat, meat products, eggs, egg products, fruits, dried and preserved fruits, vegetables, quick-frozen vegetables, wild vegetables, salted and preserved vegetables, aquatic and marine products, canned goods, mushrooms in brine, confectionery and biscuits, sugar products, wines, liquors and beer, soft drinks, dairy products, rice and flour products, peanut products, condiments, quick-frozen snacks, etc.

82 Dong'anmen Street, Beijing, China
Tel: 555180, 558831
Cable: "CEROILFOOD" Beijing
Telex: 22281 CEROF CN 22111 CEROF CN
Fax: 551610

**"Evergreen" Medical Liquor &
Ganoderma Lucidum Liquor from Jiangxi**

**Taken regularly,
they help to prolong your life**



**JIANGXI CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION**
5th Floor, Foreign Trade Bldg., Nanchang, Jiangxi, China
Tel: 64707 226611—522 Cable: CEROILFOOD
Telex: 95046 JXCOP CN Fax: 0791—223843

BIRDSEED



CHINA NATIONAL
CEREALS, OILS &
FOODSTUFFS IMPORT &
EXPORT CORPORATION,
TIANJIN CEREALS &
OILS BRANCH

142 Chi Feng Road,
Tianjin, China
Cable: CEROIL TIANJIN
Telex: 23125 TJCR CN
23310 TJCR CN
23312 TJCR CN

Millet Sprays
Millet in Husk
Red Millet in Husk
Glutinous Millet in Husk
Sunflower Seeds
Hempseeds



CHINA TEA

Business Scope:

Import and export of
tea, coffee, cocoa and
their products, and
relevant machinery,
equipment and
technology.



CHINA TEA IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Address: 82 Dong'anmen Dajie,
Beijing, China
Tel: 5126912 5124785
Telex: 22899 TUHSU CN
Fax: (01) 5124775

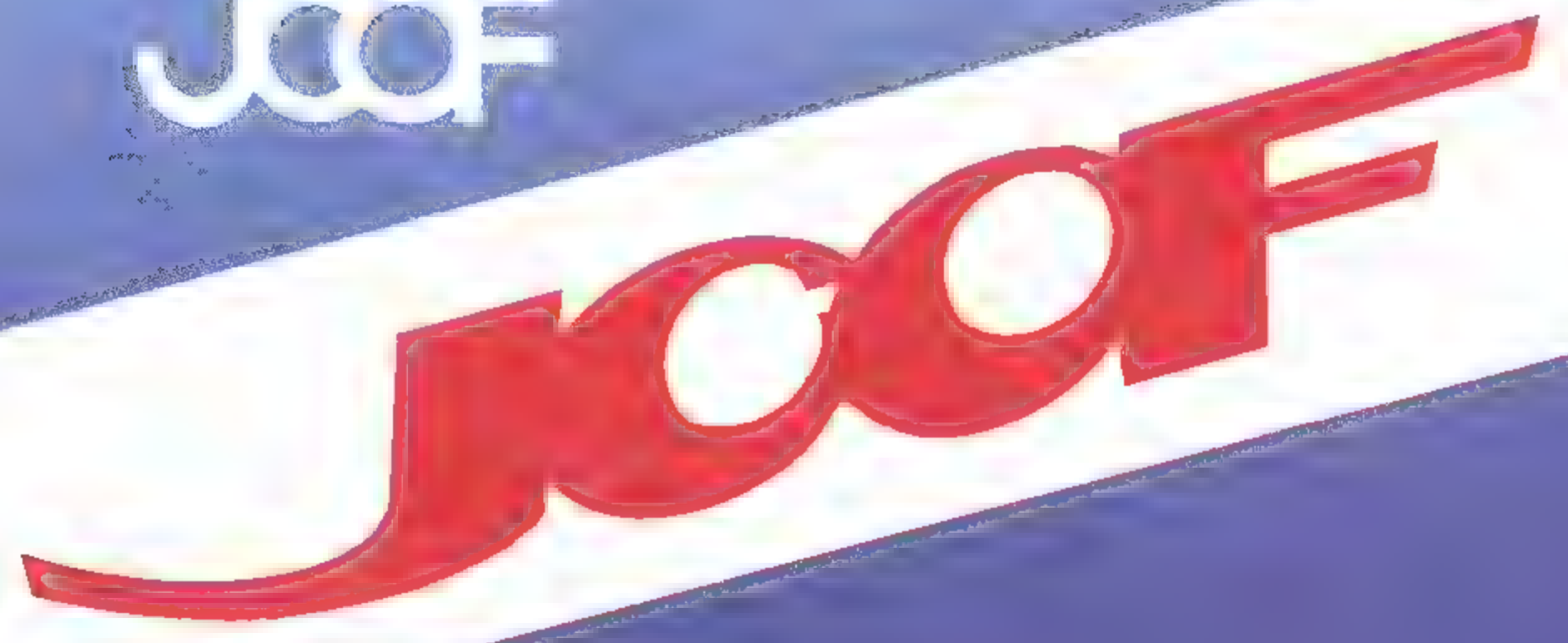
廣東糧油

GUANGDONG
CEREALS & OILS



廣東省糧油進出口公司
GUANGDONG CEREALS
& OILS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP

廣州市僑光路2號三樓 2 Qiaoguang Road, Guangzhou, China.
電傳: 44389 CEOIL CN CABLE ADDRESS: "CNCOFC" GUANGZHOU
電報掛號: "CNCOFC" 廣州 電話: 341401 傳真: 020-341345
TELEX: 44389 CEOIL CN TEL: 341401 FAX: 020-341345



CEREALS, OILS & FOODSTUFFS FROM JIANGSU

Business handled: Frozen pork and frozen pork offal & by-products, frozen rabbit, live cattle, meat products, frozen poultry, wild fowl and game, egg products, aquatic products, fresh fruits, confectionery, preserved fruits, salted vegetables, fresh vegetables, quick-frozen vegetables, wines and liquors, condiments, canned foods, cereals, oils and others. Gold Plum brand pork floss, Zhenjiang vinegar and sesameseed oil, Zhenjiang pickled vegetables, and Ma Ling brand arbutus in syrup were awarded the "Gold Prize" by the Comité International d'Action Gastronomique et Touristique of France.

China Jiangsu Cereals, Oils & Foodstuffs I/E (Group) Corp.

50 Zhonghua Rd., Nanjing, China

Cable Address: CEROILFOOD NANJING Tel: 625738, 625739

Telex: 34115 COFNI CN Fax: 025-403906

General Manager: Zhang Shuikun

Deputy General Managers: Yuan Genfu, He Juying, Yu Guozhong, Wang Yezhong

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CHINA TOURISM 10th Anniversary

Popular with
every reader



SHANGHAI ARTS & CRAFTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Zhong Shan Dong Yi Lu, Shanghai, China
Telex: 33053 ARTEX CN Fax: 021-3291871
Tel: 3212100 Cable: "ARTSCRAFTS" SHANGHAI



GUANGDONG ARTS & CRAFTS IMP. & EXP. CORP. (GROUP)

2 Qiao Guang Road, Guangzhou, China Tel: 334420
Cable: ARTCANTON/1772 Telex: 44379 KCACB CN
Fax: 343614
Contact: Advertising Section



Main Business Scope:

Import and export business of straw, rattan, fern, bamboo and sisal plaited products; jewelry and ornaments; Christmas and festival gifts, artificial flowers; variety of toys, shoes and furniture; lamp-lighting and brass products; umbrellas, ivory and jade carvings; imitative antique porcelain; paper for painting, ink paste used for seals, ink sticks, writing brushes, lacquerware, etc., as well as import of technique, facilities, raw and packing materials for manufacturing special arts and crafts, and the export of such products.



SHANGHAI ARTS & CRAFTS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

BUSINESS LINES:

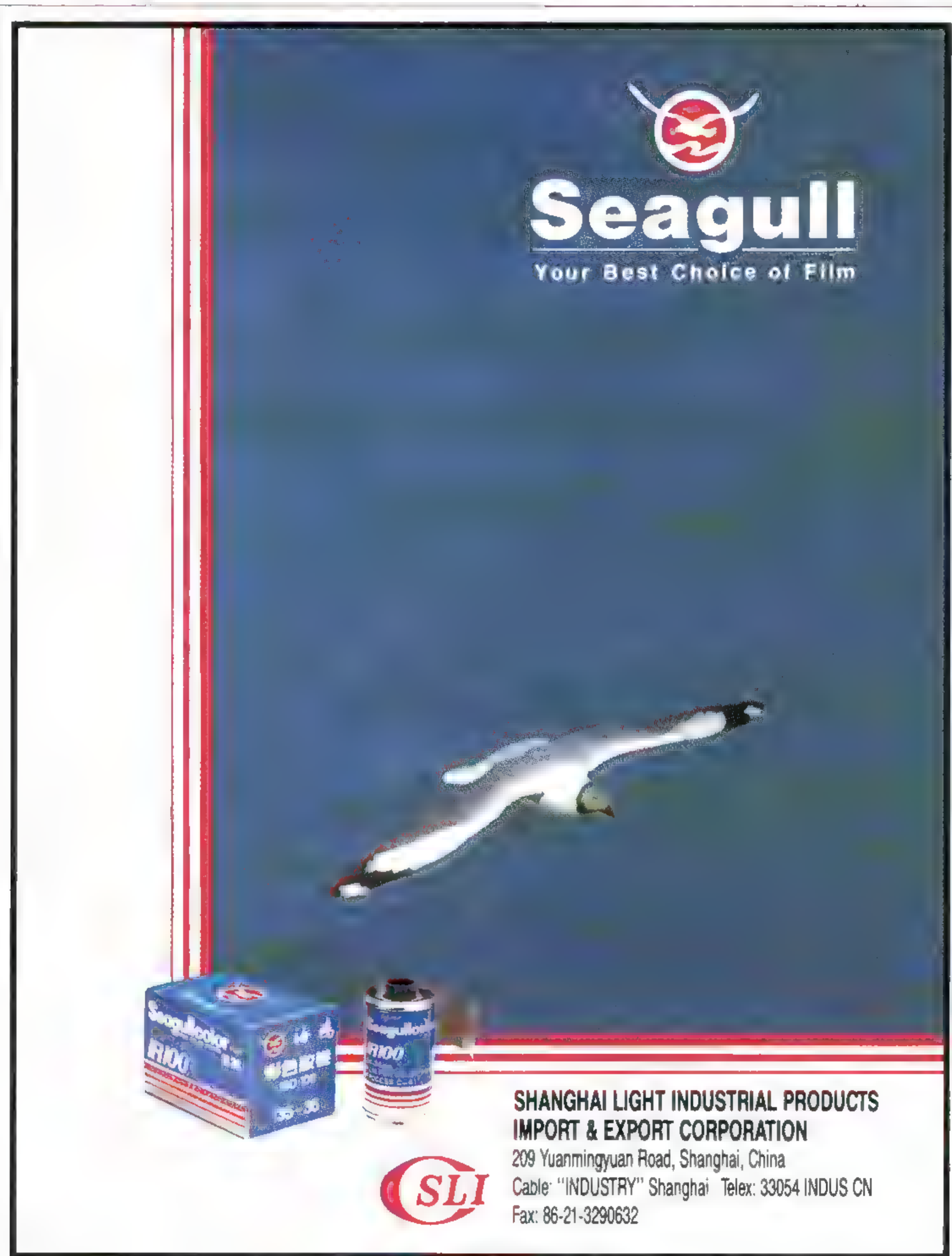
- JEWELLRY
- HATS
- SHOES
- CRAFT GIFTS
- DAILY NECESSITIES & MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES
- STRAW, WILLOW AND BAMBOO PLAIED ARTICLES
- FURNITURE
- GLOVES
- ARTISTIC HANDICRAFTS



16, Zhong Shan Dong Yi Lu,
Shanghai, China
Tel: 3212100

Cable: "ARTSCRAFTS" SHANGHAI
Telex: 33053 ARTEX CN
Fax: 021-3291871

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Seagull
Your Best Choice of Film

SHANGHAI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION
209 Yuanmingyuan Road, Shanghai, China
Cable: "INDUSTRY" Shanghai Telex: 33054 INDUS CN
Fax: 86-21-3290632

SLI



ZHEJIANG LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
IMP. & EXP. CORP.

223 Tiychang Road, Hangzhou, China
Tel: 558961 Cable: "INDUSTRY" Hangzhou
Telex: 35018 INTLX CN Fax: (0571) 556213



"Steed" Brand Bicycles

We can supply you with best-quality BMX and A.T.B. bicycle series in various models – at a fair price. Processing with supplied brand names and designs and assembling with supplied parts are accepted. Trade discussions and orders are welcome.

CLIL

China National Light Industrial Imp. & Exp. Corporation, Liaoning Branch
110 Stalin Road, Dalian, China
Cable: "INDUSTRY" DALIAN
Telex: "86156 YASHU CN"

Our company has a 36-year history in the import and export of light industrial products. We mainly export shoes, hats, leather articles, cases and bags, sports and travel requisites, musical instruments stationery, paper, toys, building materials and electrical appliances, totalling over 160 varieties in 20 categories. More than 20 of them including "Xinghai" pianos and violins, "Goldfish" toilet paper, "Dragonfly" sports shoes and POC spectacle lenses have received awards as best quality products. The annual export volume exceeds US\$1,000,000.

We also handle processing with supplied materials and samples and undertake assembly with supplied materials, compensation trade, joint ventures, export or transport agencies, etc.

General Manager: Chen Shi



**BEIJING LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.**

76 WEST CHANGAN AVE., BEIJING, CHINA
CABLE: 'INDUSPK' BEIJING TELEX: 22142 LITBJ CN
FAX: 65.7029 601.6303 POST CODE: 100031



Many years ago, there was a country famous for china, so it was called China. Nowadays, people are more likely to call it "Bicycle Kingdom". The crown is Forever Bicycle, produced by the Shanghai Bicycle Factory, with 50 years of expertise. The annual output

COME ROLLING, FOREVER PROFITS

of Forever Bicycle is 3 million, divided into 7 series and over 130 types. They are sold around the world in more than 50 countries and regions.

We work under close cooperation for mutual benefits with our partners, and would like to hear from you, too. For forever profits, go for Forever Bicycles.



Manufactured by Shanghai Bicycle Factory

Add: 1217 Tangshan Road, Shanghai, China
Tel: 5461544 Telex: 430159 SBF CN Fax: 3208657



Sole agent: Shanghai Bicycle Import & Export Co. Ltd.

Add: 4/F, 817 Dong Da Ming Road, Shanghai, China
Tel: 5463059, 5414780-68 Telex: 30149 SBIEC CN
Fax: 86-21-5458814

*Everything for
a pleasant,
relaxing trip*



**CHINA JIANGSU LIGHT
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IMPORT &
EXPORT (GROUP) CORP.**

288 South Zhongshan Road, Nanjing, China
Cable Address: "INDUSTRY" NANJING
Telex: 34105 34171 34172 34173 INDNK CN
342233 JASUL CN
Fax: 025-407398



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China National Pearl Diamond Gem & Jewellery Imp. & Exp. Corporation



China National Pearl Diamond Gem & Jewellery Imp. & Exp. Corporation is a state-owned import and export corporation exclusively dealing with pearl and diamond import and export business authorized by the state council. This corporation is also in charge of other gem and jewellery import and export business all over China.

Business scope:

1. Chinese pearl, rough polished diamond and diamond ornaments;

2. Gold and silver jewellery;
3. All kinds of rough, polished precious stone and semi-precious stone;
4. Import and export of special tools and equipment for jewellery manufacturing;
5. Dealing with compensation trade, cooperative manufacturing and joint-venture of gem and jewellery;
6. Business of making payments to our agents abroad and getting gem and jewellery in China.

Address: 291, An Ding Men Nei Street 4-5 Floor, Hualun Hotel

Tel: 4015966, 442431-1504 Telex: 22155 CNART CN

Fax: 86-01-5123204 Post Code: 100009

The Magic Charm of Gansu's "Flying Celestial" Carpets



Gansu Carpets Import & Export Corporation 飛天牌

613 Dong Gang Dong Road, Lanzhou, Gansu, China

Tel: 498611 Cable: 0966 Telex: 72129 DITAN CN

上海玩具進出口公司



Our company exports toys made of plush and wood, mechanical toys made of metal and plastics, musical and inflatable toys, as well as children's tricycles. Toy parts and accessories are available on request.

Manufacture with supplied materials, patterns and designs, compensation trade, joint ventures and co-production are also welcomed.



Add: 165 Pu'an Road, Shanghai, China

Tel: 3262640 Telex: 33037 TOYS CN

Cable: "CHINATOYS" SHANGHAI

Fax: 3260349, 3203353 Post Code: 200021

BRIGHTEN YOUR SALES WITH OUR CHRISTMAS LIGHT!



ZHEJIANG ARTS & CRAFTS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION

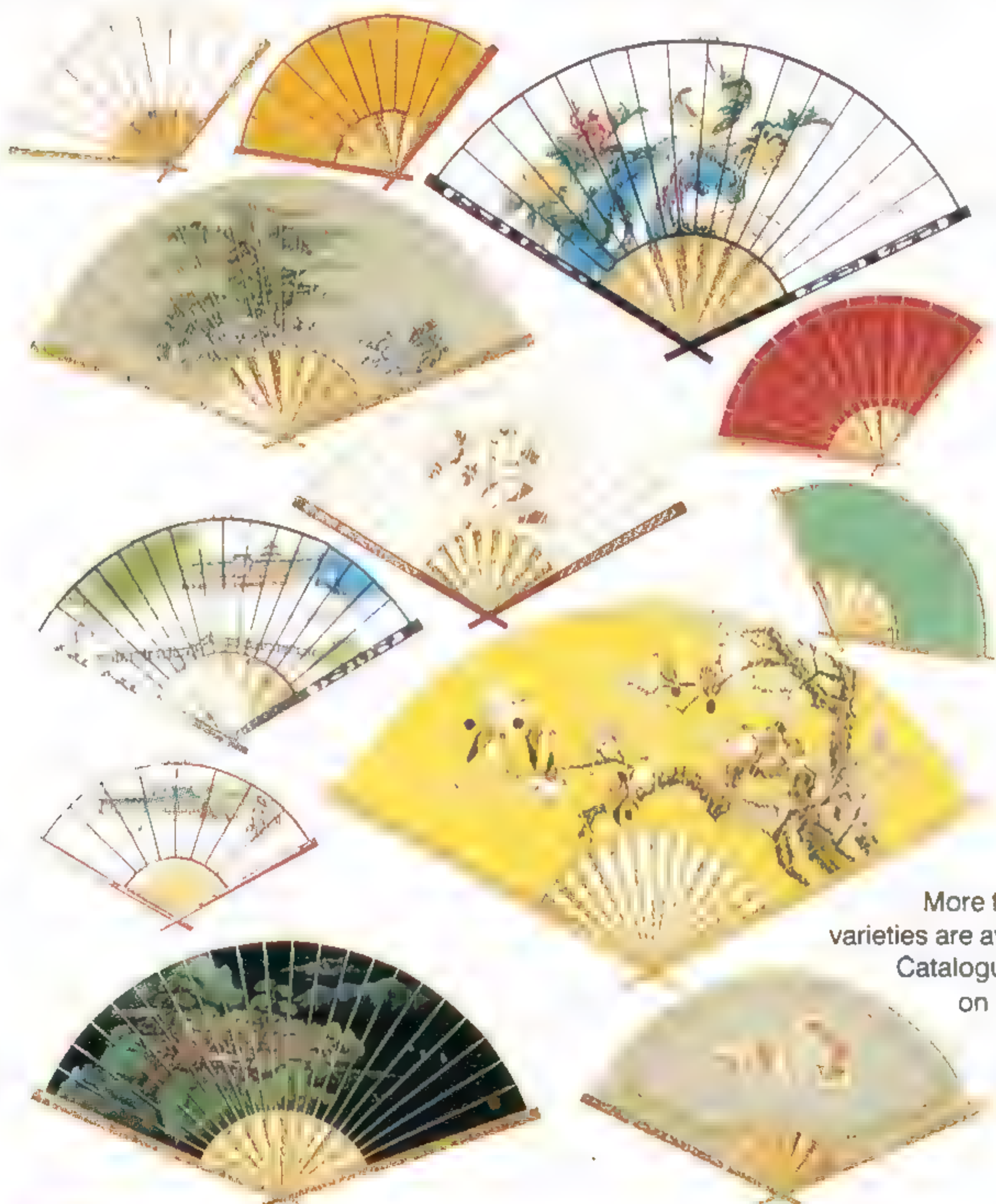
14 Genshan Road, Hangzhou, China

Tel: (0571) 43401 Telex: 35017 ZARTS CN, 351066 ZARTS CN

Cable: ZJARTS HANGZHOU Fax: (0571) 554911, (0571) 555360

Bamboo Hanging Fans from Guangdong

Your best choice for wall decoration and as a souvenir or gift



More than 400
varieties are available.
Catalogues sent
on request



GUANGDONG NATIVE PRODUCE IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION (GROUP)

Address: 108 Jiang Nan Road, Central, Guangzhou, China
Telex: 441010 KTNB CN, 44372 KTNB CN
Cable: "PROCANTON" GUANGZHOU
Tel: 411461 Fax: (020) 412561

SHANTOU SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE CERAMICS CORP. CHINA



Shantou Special Economic Zone Ceramics Corporation is an enterprise jointly run by Shantou SEZ General Development Corporation and Shantou Ceramics Industry Corp. It is authorized to import and export goods directly.

We mainly export ceramic wares for everyday use, industrial ceramics, transfer printing paper, raw materials for ceramics, and chemical pigments, arts and crafts, building materials, electronic products and glassware. Our imports include raw materials for ceramics, fuel, subsidiary and packaging materials, equipment and instruments, chemical pigments, chemical materials, building and decorative materials, plastics, hardware, raw materials for arts and crafts, electronic materials, etc.

Bldg. 9, Longhu Processing District, Shantou S.E.Z., Guangdong
Tel: 260193 Cable: 1314 SHANTOU
Tlx: 45470 SSEZC CN Fax: (0754) 260205
Managing Director: Li Yang-shi
General Manager: Peng Pei-sheng

Shanghai Wood-made Toys

- Great variety
- Attractive designs
- Guaranteed punctual delivery

Use for decoration and for festive occasions.
Contact us today for full details.



SHANGHAI NATIVE PRODUCE IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Address: 18 Dien Chi Road, Shanghai, China
Tel: 3218880 Telegrams: "CHINAPROCO" SHANGHAI
Telex: 33060 CNPCC CN
Fax: 021-3291466 021-3234579





Shenyang Festival Decoration Lamp



**SHENYANG LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.**

11/F., International Trade Building, No. 35 Qingnian Street, Shenyang, China
Cable: 0990 SHENYANG Tlx: 80093 CLIES CN Fax: 724886 Postal Code: 110014



**Guangdong Stationery & Sporting
Goods Imp. & Exp. Corp.**

We mainly handle various paper and paper products, articles for office use, stationery for students, artists' necessities, gymnastic apparatus, all sorts of balls, sportswear, sports shoes, hats, musical instruments, tents, sleeping bags, inflatable beds, toys, cases and bags, and travel requisites.

We also undertake import and export business on consignment by local or overseas companies, enterprises or other economic entities; processing with supplied materials and samples; assembly with supplied materials; compensation trade and joint ventures.

833 Dongfeng Road East,
Guangzhou, China
Tel: 772288, 765076
Cable: 6904
Telex: 44799 GSS CN
Fax: 020-766079
Post Code: 510600



Float Glass and Glazed
Tiles from Guangxi



**GUANGXI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.**

137 Qixing Road, Nanning, Guangxi, China
Tel: 20676-401, 23898 Cable: "INDUSTRY" NANNING
Telex: 48109 GXLMP CN Fax: 27608



**KOFA BRAND
NYLON TOOTH
BRUSHES**

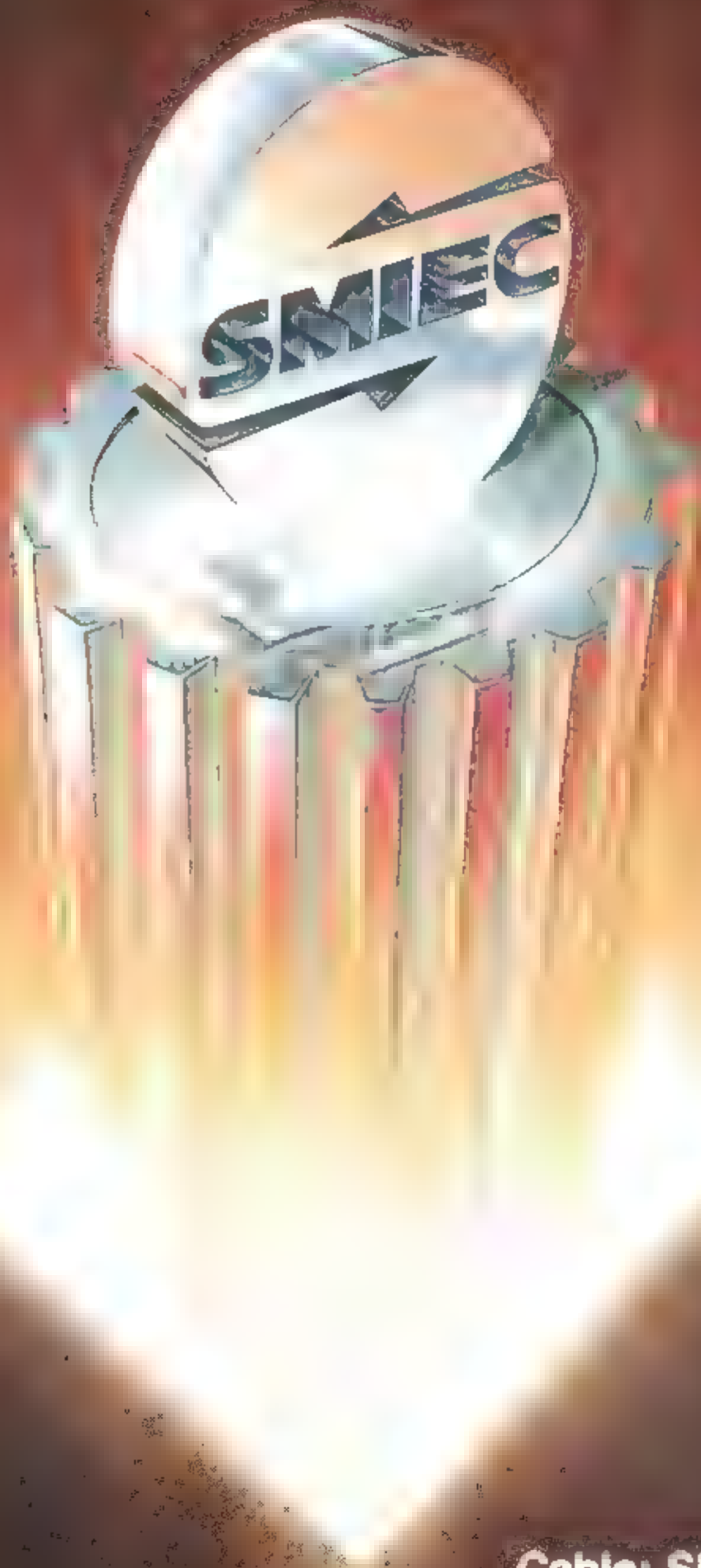
**Shanghai Stationery & Sporting Goods
Import & Export Corporation**

128, Huqiu Road, Shanghai, China
Cable: STASPORT SHANGHAI Telex: 33132 STASP CN Fax: 021-3290979

Business Coordinator: Mr. Mao Zhaochua

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of the Publication of CHINA TOURISM

**We offer better products
as we make progress**



Imports and exports of machinery, electronics, instruments, ships, cars, plants, tools and advanced technology.

Production based on buyers' drawings or samples, processing with buyers' materials, assembling with buyers' parts and compensation trade acceptable.



**SHANGHAI MACHINERY
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**

27 Zhongshan Road E.1,
Shanghai, China

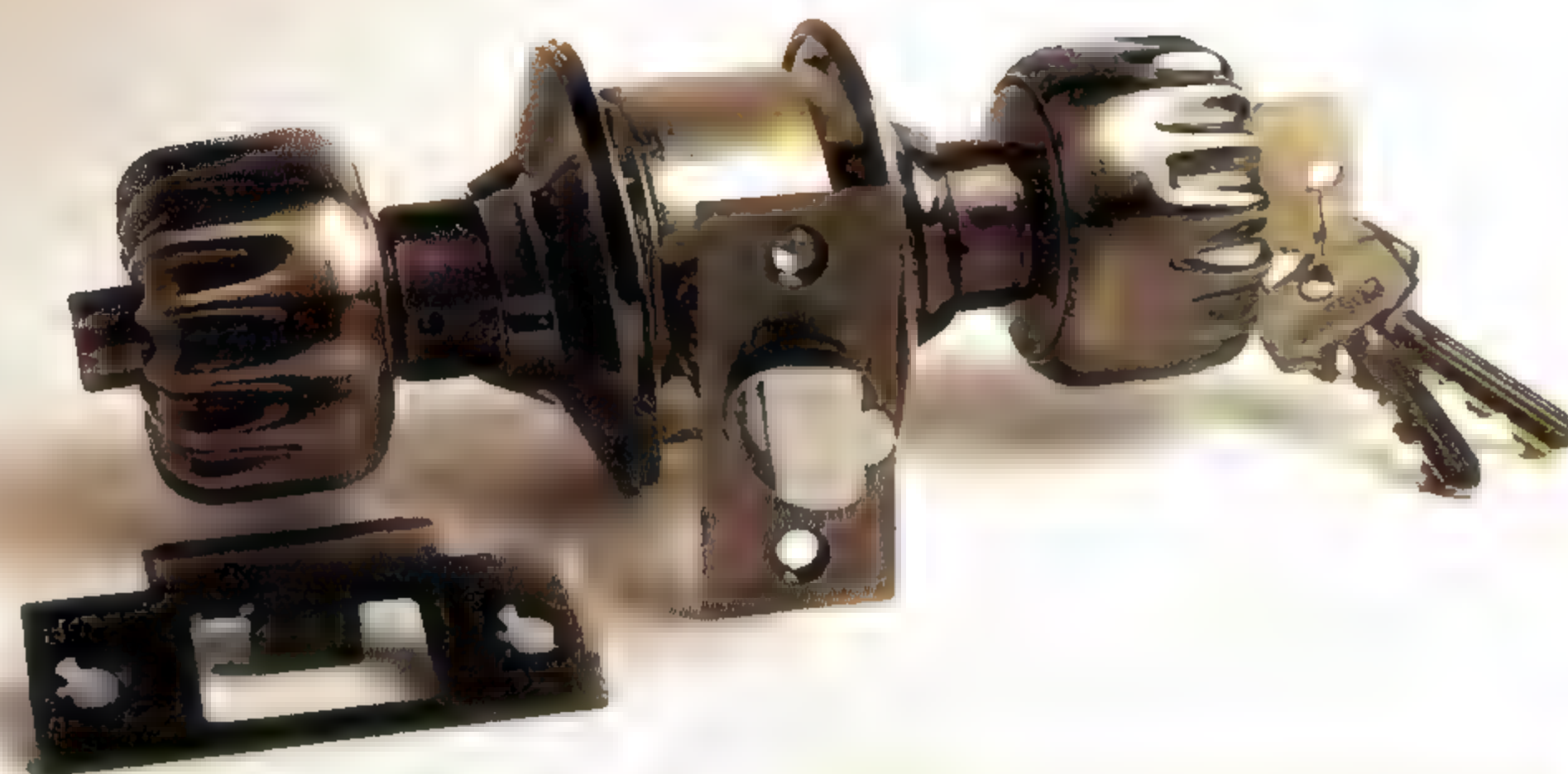
ZIP: 200002 Tel: 3215066

Cable: SMIEC or MACHIMPEX SHANGHAI

Telex: 33066 SHCMC CN

Fax: 0086-21-3290603

Hardware



Our products are skilfully made from superior materials, to your own specifications if necessary, and our prices are competitive. We also guarantee prompt delivery and good service.

"Double Dove" brand hardware, including steel slotted angles, shell brackets, window louvre frames; wood screws, lapping screws, nuts and bolts and all types of screws; hasps and staples, padlocks, collapsible metal gates and bars; door locks with knobs, double-cylinder, mini drawback locks; mini night latches, mortise locks and dead bolt locks.

"Triangle" brand hinges, industrial castors, rubber wheels, metal furniture casters, hooded ball castors and cast iron/rubber wheels; bright and brass-plated, light and heavy iron hinges, bright and brass-plated square iron hinges, brass hinges, "H" iron hinges, "T" iron hinges, brass-plated concealed self-closing spring hinges, stainless steel hinges, nylon ring and stainless hinges and piano hinges.

Contact us today for details!

GUANGDONG METALS & MINERALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Address: 774, Dong Feng Road (E), Guangzhou, China

Cable: MINMETALS or 7177 GUANGZHOU

Telex: 44377 WUJIN CN Fax: (86) 20-752205

SHENYANG METALS & MINERALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

The world's largest reserves of raw magnesite and talc are found in the sea areas and hills at the proximity of Liaoning Province. Such rich resources provide the strongest material base for Shenyang Metals & Minerals Import & Export Corporation to deal in mineral trade. Major commodities offered by the corporation are:

- Dead-burned magnesite, fused magnesia and caustic calcined magnesite and magnesite product series.
- Talc powder, talc lumps and talc product series.
- Granite rough blocks and granite slabs.
- Other mineral products.



**SHENYANG NATIONAL METALS
& MINERALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION**

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Telex: 46631 HZMEM CN Fax: (0371) 555334



SHANGHAI INSTRUMENTATION AND ELECTRONICS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORP.

Address: 68 Gui Zhou Road, Shanghai Telephone: 3229171
Cable: SIECO SHANGHAI Telex: 33261 SIEC CN Fax: (021) 3207478

Business Scope:

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- Export of instrument and electronic products, production equipment, production line and complete projects
- Dealing in co-production, joint ventures, compensation trade and processing with supplied materials
- Providing technical consultation service

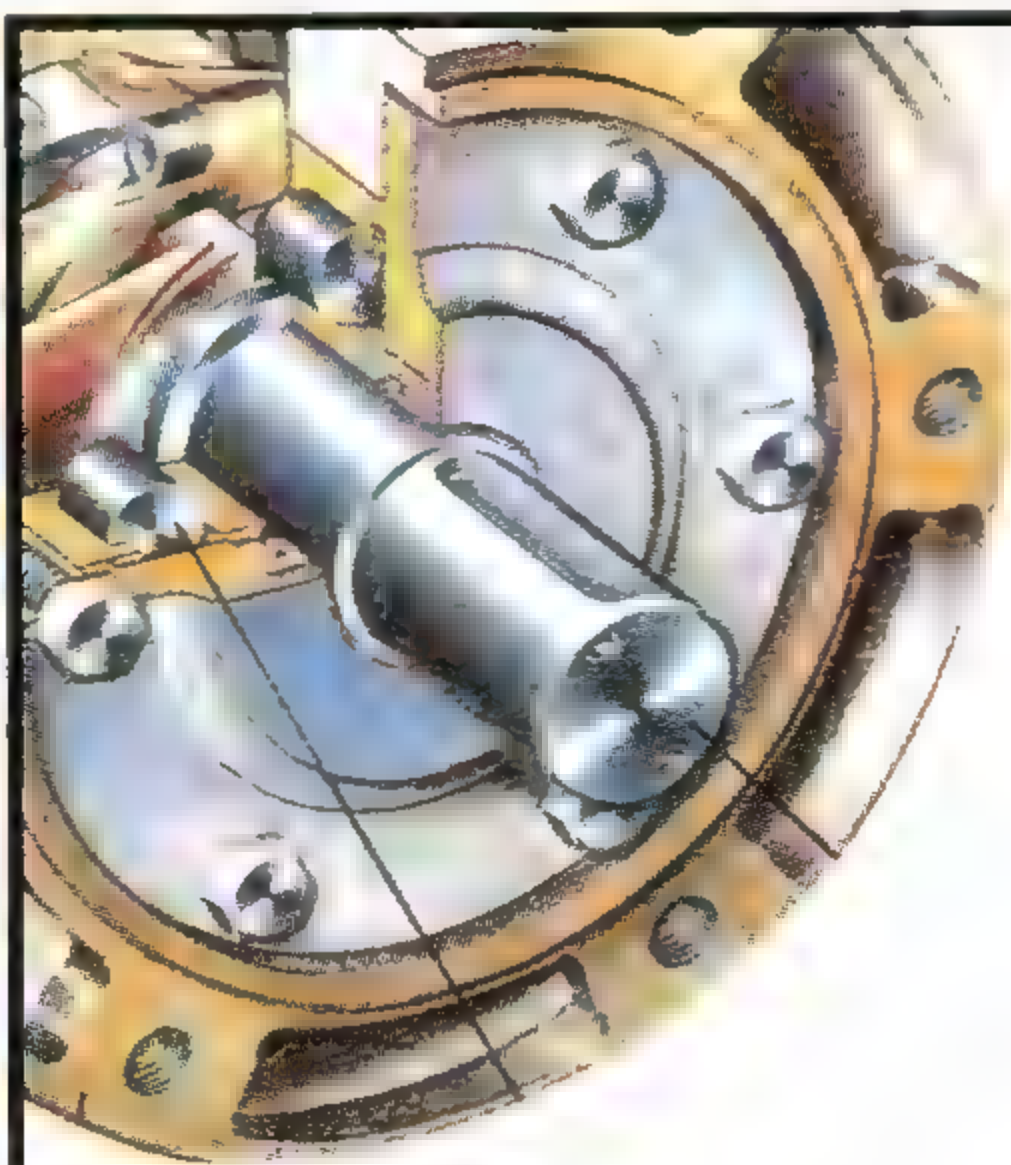


Shenyang Machinery & Equipment



SHENYANG MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Floor 12-14, Guomao Building, 35 Qingnian Street, Shenyang, China
Tel.: (024) 724785 Fax.: (024) 724991 Tlx.: 80031 SMEC CN



GUANGDONG MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION

Guangdong Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation is one of China's largest foreign trade companies, specializing in imports and exports of over 200 varieties of mechanical and electrical products. In recent years we have been handling exports of new types of machinery and equipment. We can also provide products in accordance with buyers' requirements and the need of different markets. We have established business relations with nearly 100 countries and regions all over the world, and warmly welcome more business contacts.



Address: 59 ZHAN QIAN RD., GUANGZHOU, CHINA Fax: 020-677082
Cable Address: "EQUIMPEX" GUANGZHOU Telex: 44426 EQUIM CN

CHINA NATIONAL ELECTRONICS IMP. & EXP. CORP. SOUTH-CHINA BRANCH



Add: 403 Huanshi Rd East, Guangzhou, China
Tel: 777905 Telex: 44421CECGB CN Fax: 765443
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CARVING**



**CHINA JIANGSU METALS
& MINERALS IMPORT
& EXPORT (GROUP)
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Building No. 27, 1 Xiaoying
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Tel: 642468

Telex: 34114 MIMNJ CN,
34080 MIMNJ CN

Fax: 086-025-408127

Person-to-contact:
Zha Yuling



**TIANJIN METALS & MINERALS
IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION**



237 Heping Street, Tianjin, China
Tel: 70-3073

Cable: "MINMETALS" TIANJIN
Telex: 23224, 23237, 23378 TJMET CN
Fax: (86)22-701264



Zhejiang Machinery &
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with over 500 clients in more than
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Its ever increasing trade value
topped over 85 million U.S. dollars
in 1989.

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2. General-purpose machinery;
3. Machine tools and tools;
4. Autos and its spare parts;
5. Bearings and components;
6. Instruments and meters;
7. Household electric appliances and
electric products;
8. Agricultural machinery and machinery
for processing farm products or side-
line products;
9. Electronic products;
10. Complete plants;
11. Patent and know-how.

Imports are: various mechanical and
electric products, production lines, know-
how, etc.

General Manager: Liu Hang
(For more details please contact
Mr. Jiang Xianxiao Tel: 770798)



**ZHEJIANG MACHINERY &
EQUIPMENT I/E CORP.**

Add: 131 Jiefang Rd., Hangzhou, China
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Tel: 225351 Cable: HLJIEC HARBIN Telex: 87036 HIE CN Fax: 225319
General Managers: Liu Wen Rong, Sun Wei Gen, Dong Xue Ze

"Panda" Telescopes



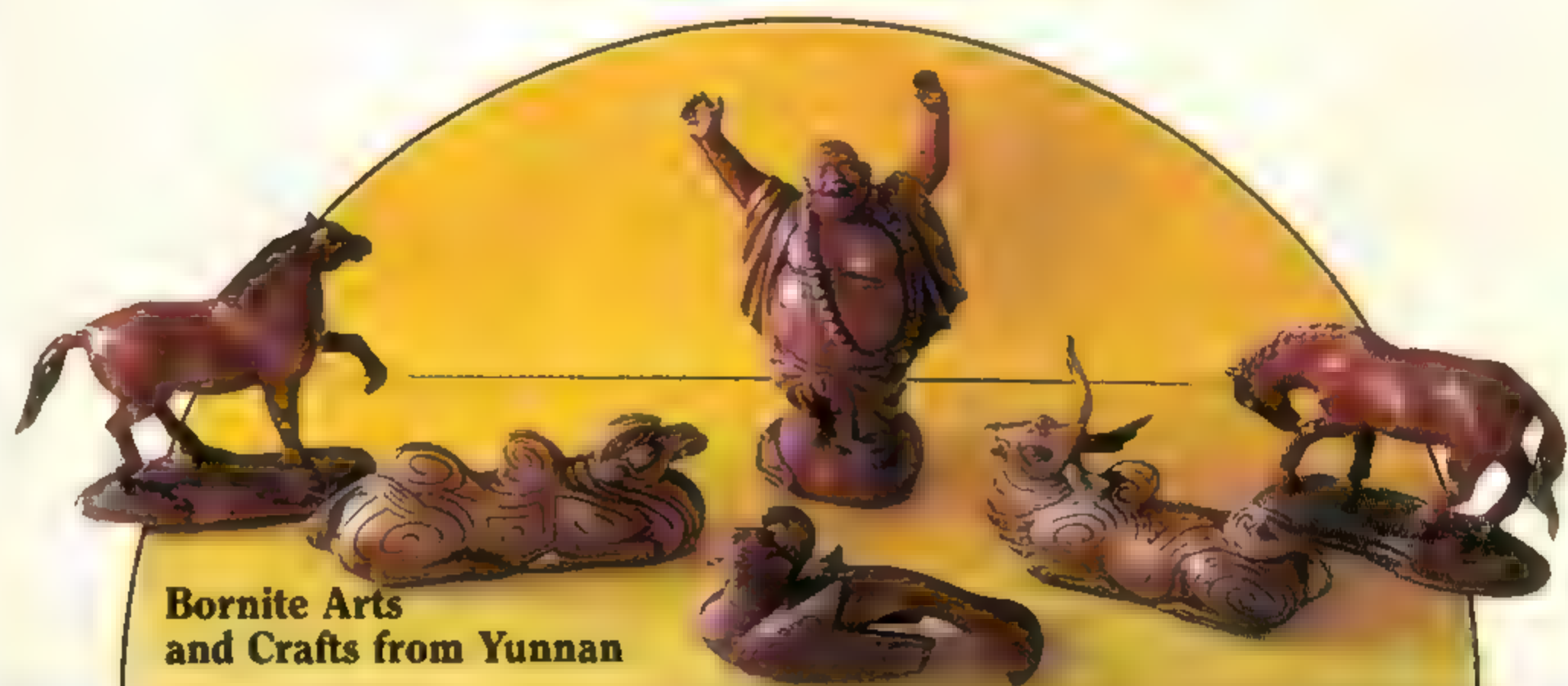
Yunnan Provincial Import & Export Corporation

Our company is a multi-purpose provincial import and export enterprise. We handle Yunnan's main exports of various commodities and technology and import complete sets of equipment and technology. Our company also specializes in business with countries bordering on Yunnan as well as with the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Taiwan. Other business involvements include economic cooperation with foreign enterprises and firms, joint ventures, consultation and rental services.

We cordially welcome friends from all parts of the world to build up cooperation with us.

Yunnan Provincial Import & Export Corporation

8-9/F, 576 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan, China
Tel: 25485, 27239, 22983, 29746 Cable: YIEPORT KUNMING
Telex: 64039 YPIEC CN Fax: 0871-34451



Bornite Arts and Crafts from Yunnan

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Business Scope

Import and export of cereals, oils, foodstuffs, native produce, animal by-products, aquatic products, textiles, silks, light industrial products, arts and crafts, metals and minerals, medicine, chemicals, machinery and equipment, electronics; processing with supplied materials, samples or designs, compensation trade, joint ventures; undertaking exhibitions at home and abroad, property investment, workshop rental, etc.

CHINA FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES, INC. SHANTOU SEZ. BRANCH

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General Manager: Ma You Guang
Add: 1st & 3rd Storey, East Bldg., Synthetic Bldg., SEZ
Tel: 262811, 262893, 262083, 262080, 262512
Fax: 261475 Cable: 8127 Shantou

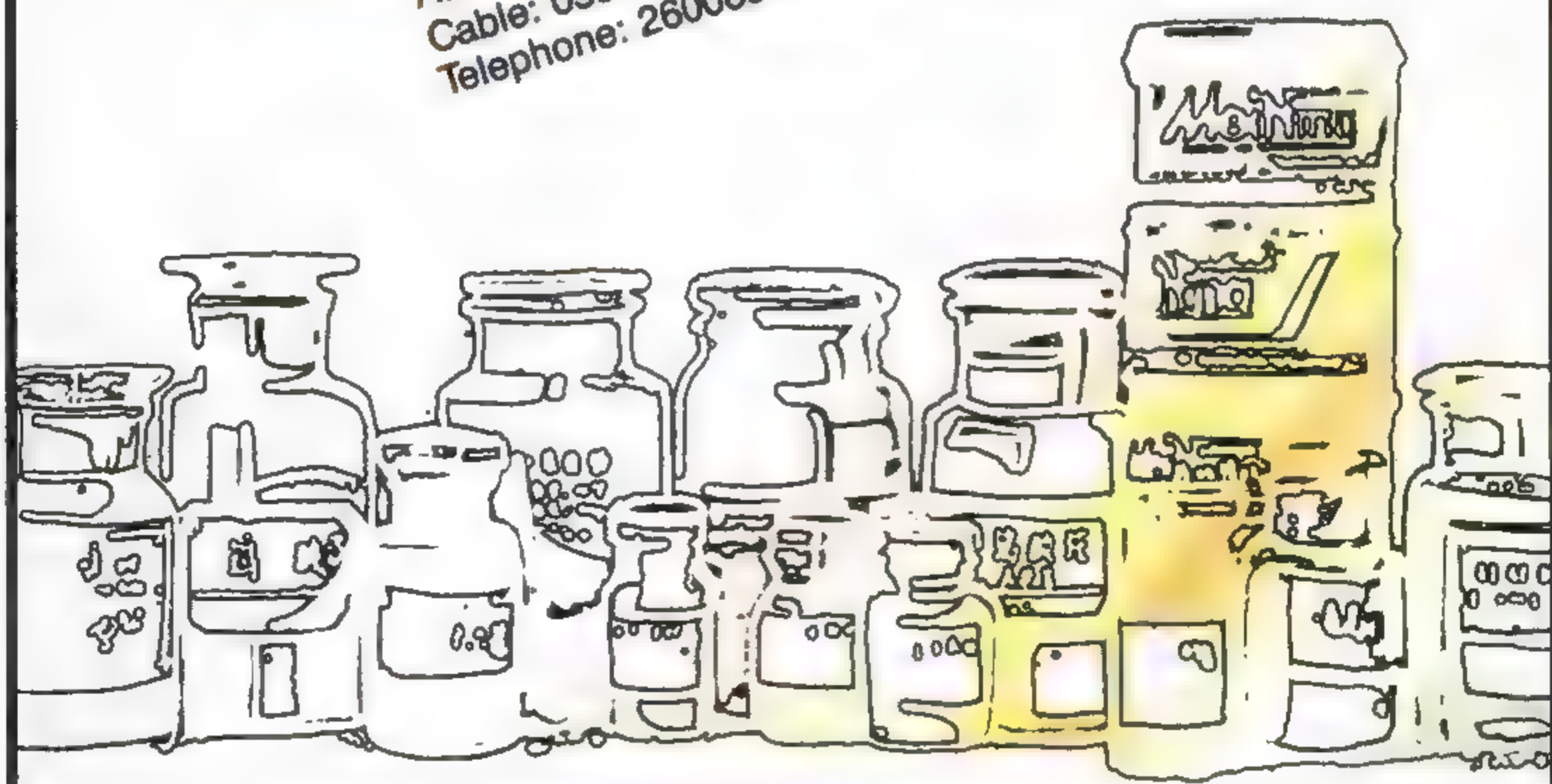
Directly under the Shantou SEZ Goods & Materials Import & Export Corporation, ours is a specialized company with the status of a legal person and the privilege to handle import and export business. From 1987 our company was awarded as an advanced enterprise "honoring contracts and commitments" for three successive years.

SCOPE OF BUSINESS: chemical products and materials, farming production apparatus, building materials, ceramic products, decorative materials, timber, metal materials, metals and minerals, rubber products, knitwear, arts and crafts.

OPERATION: wholesale, retail, consignment sale, processing including that with provided materials, samples or designs, compensation trade, and processing export products.

Shantou SEZ Chemical Construction Company

Address: 2/F, Hongzhen Hall, Shantou SEZ
Cable: 0557 Fax: 261072
Telephone: 260089 261073 262573 263095



Trade with NORINCO, and Stay with the Cathay Hotel

China North Industries Corporation, Guangzhou Branch is a leading branch of China North Industries Corporation. We deal mainly in light industrial products, machinery, chemicals, optical instruments and electronics, including the import and export of technology, equipment and materials. We also handle material-processing and assembly, compensation trade, labour service export, engineering projects of imported parts and technical services.

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Cable: "MEHECOS" Shanghai / Telex: 33556 MHIEC CN Fax: 021-3291609

The Spices & Essential Oils Section of Jiangxi Native Produce Import & Export Corporation handles camphor oil white, cedarwood oil, eucalyptus oil, evening primrose oil, garlic oil, ginger oil, litsea cubeba oil, peppermint crude oil, peppermint oil (dementholized), spearmint oil, natural terpineol, cedrol, linalyl acetate, menthol crystals, camphene, iso bornyl acetate, dipentene, methyl salicylate, pine oil, terpineol, natural refined camphor powder, synthetic camphor powder, and anhydrous citric acid, etc. Orders and visits are welcome.



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TLX: 95235 JXNTP CN CABLE: "JXNT" NANCHANG



China Jilin Provincial Medicines &
Health Products Imp. & Exp. Corp.

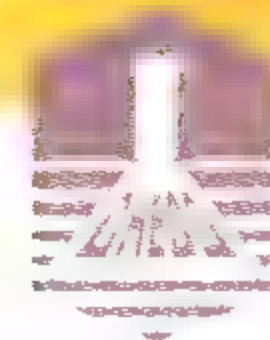
29 Jianshe Street, Changchun, China

Tel: 868234

Cable: "1202" or "MEHECC" CHANGCHUN

Telex: 83087 MHP CN

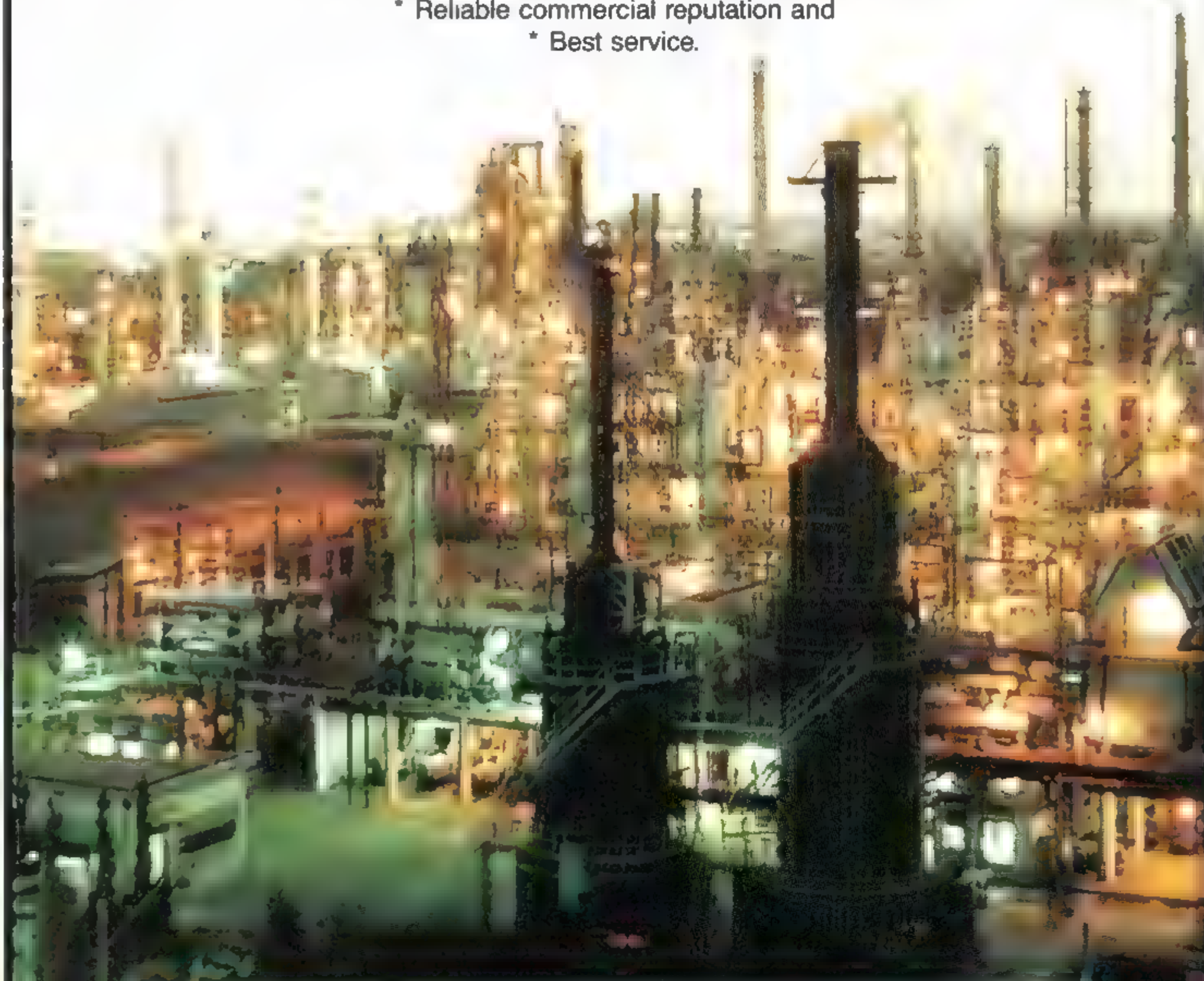
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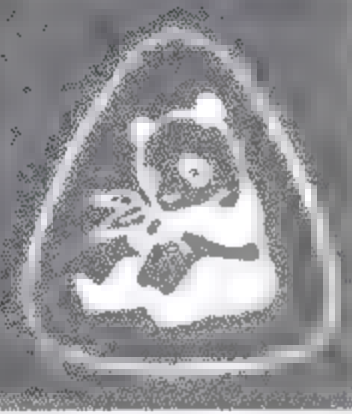
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For complete informations, please contact Mr. Wang Gaolong.
27 Zhongshan Road (E.1), Shanghai, 200002, China
Cable: SCHECO Shanghai Telex: 33044 SCHCO CN Fax: 0086 21 3290353



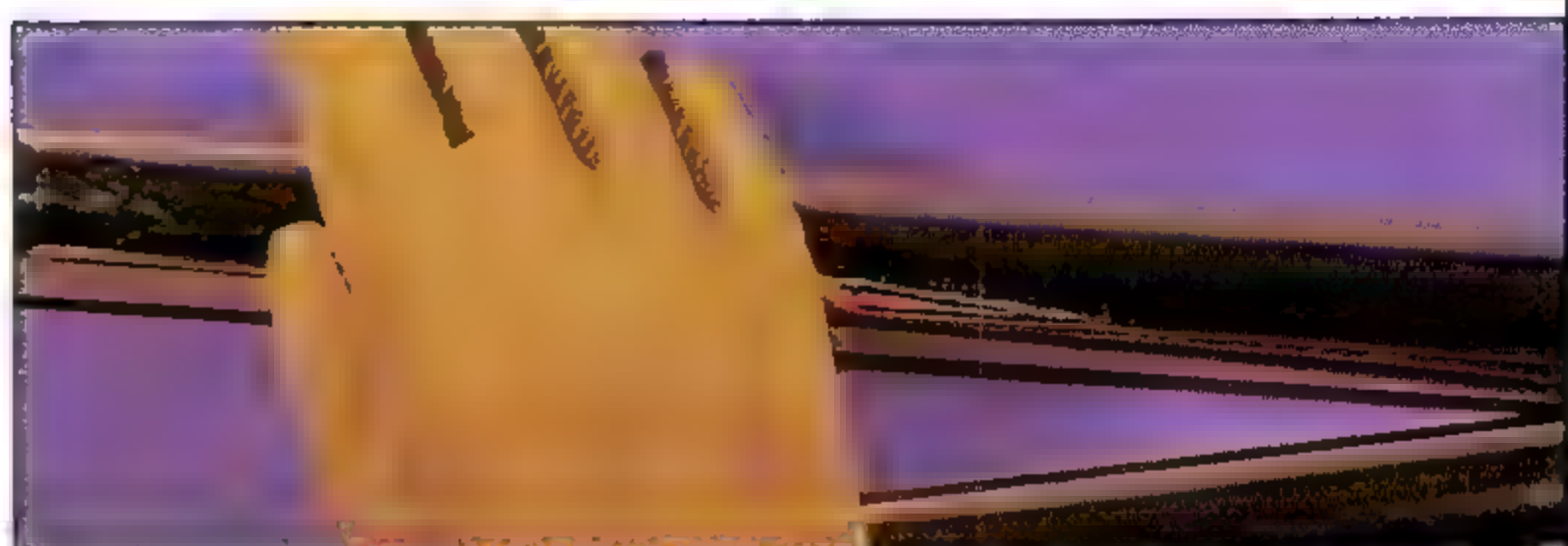
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Corporation**

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Guangzhou, China
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Cable: "SINOCEMIC"
GUANGZHOU
Telex: 44376 HAGON CN
GUANGZHOU
Fax: 020-861731

SINOCEMIC

Scope of business: Oil, oil products,
fertilizers, natural rubber, chemical
raw materials, plastics, paints,
printing inks, pigments, dyestuffs,
agrochemicals, synthetic rubber,
rubber products, chemical reagents,
and various related services.



China National Chemicals Import & Export Corporation

Address: Erligou, Xijiao, Beijing, China
Tel: 8311106 8316306
Telex: 22243 CHEMI CN 222732 CHEMI CN
Cable: SINOCEMIC BEIJING

HUBEI PROVINCIAL CHEMICALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP.



12-13TH FLOOR HUBEI JINMAO BUILDING, NO.8 JIANGNAN NORTH
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**China National
Chemicals Import
And Export
Corporation
Jiangsu Branch**

50 Zhonghua Road,
Nanjing, China
Telex: 34109 CIENJ CN
Fax: 025-407789
Tel: 201539

Liaison Officer: Cui Sheng Jue



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Wuhan Chemicals Products Imp. & Exp. Corp.



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Telex: 40163 WHCMC CN
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Wuhan Dyestuffs

Exploring Domestic and Overseas Markets to Promote Import and Export Trade



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Taiyuan Chemical Plant Import & Export Corporation would like to establish regular trade relations with domestic and foreign customers so that we can develop together.



TAIYUAN CHEMICAL PLANT IMP. & EXP. CORPORATION
ADD: TAIYUAN, SHANXI, CHINA TEL: 640349
TELEX: 28046 PYCP CN CABLE: 1132 TAIYUAN

CHINA NATIONAL CHEMICALS IMPORT & EXPORT CORP., SHENYANG BRANCH

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STANDARDS: ASSAY (CrO_3) 99.6%
CHLORIDE (Cl) 0.005%
SULFATE (SO_4) 0.1%
INSOLUBLE: 0.05%

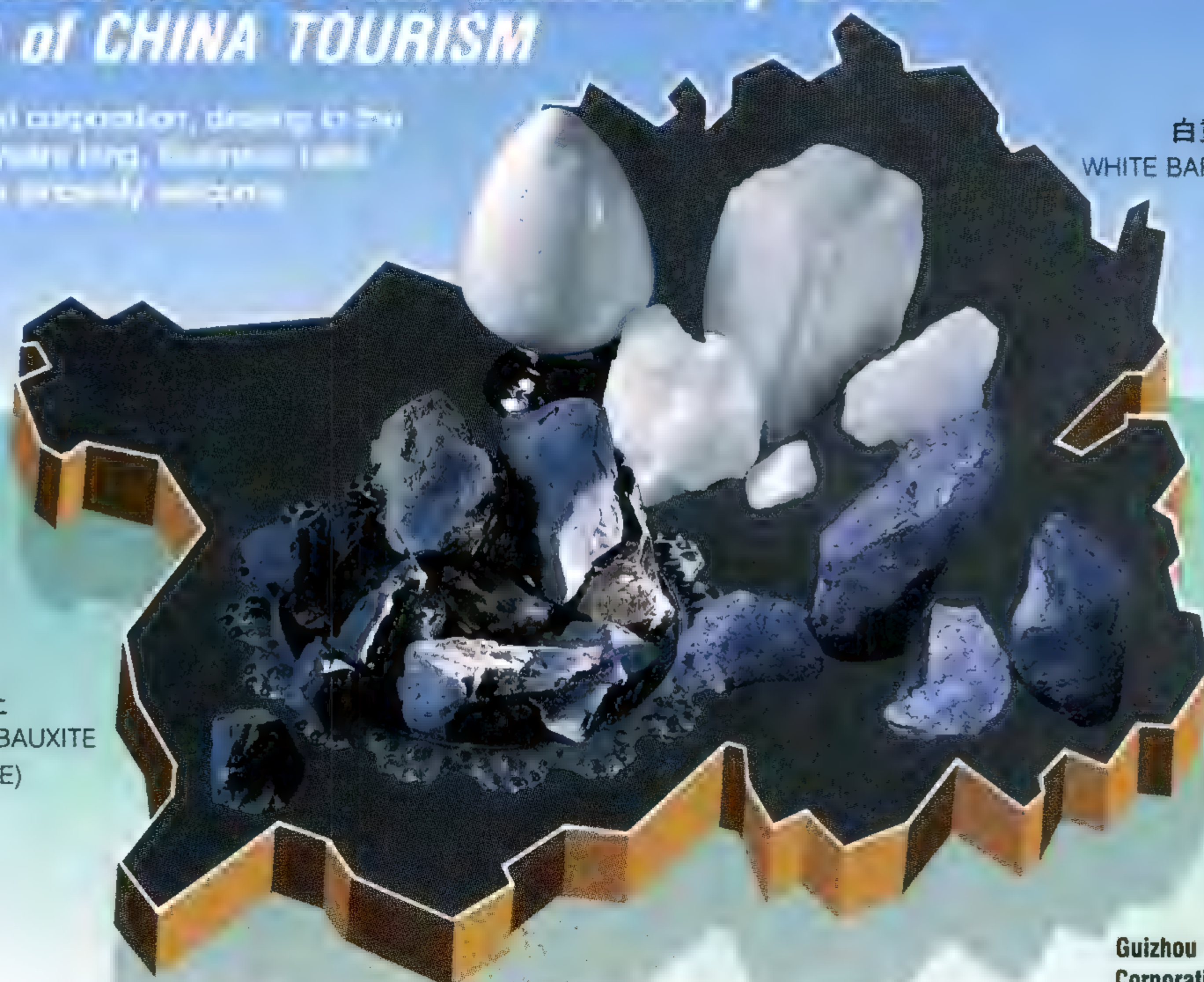
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With more than thirty years' experience in international trade, our company has established relations with nearly one hundred clients in fifty countries and regions.

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Telex: 86279 MEHEC CN 86462 MHPCO CN

Cable: "5522 DALIAN" or "MEHECO DALIAN"

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CHINA SHAANXI
NATIVE PRODUCE
IMPORT & EXPORT
CORPORATION**



中國陝西西安蓮湖路37號

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電報: TUHSU XIAN

電傳: 700247 SNPC CN

傳真: 029-713296

37 Lian Hu Road, Xian, Shaanxi, China

Tel: 713380 21756

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電掛：“MACHIMPEX” Nanjing
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Business Scope:

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instruments and meters, hand
tools, agricultural implements,
complete sets of production
equipment. Import and export of
“technical know-how” joint
ventures, co-production, com-
pensation trade, as well as pro-
cessing according to customers’
drawing and samples, import and
export consultation.

General Manager: Wu Hongchuan
Deputy Managers: Bai Jinliang, Tang Wei
Add: 257 Baixia Road, Nanjing, China
Tel: 025-405630 Telex: 34111 JMCNJ CN
Fax: 025-413450 Cable: “MACHIMPEX” Nanjing
Post area code: 210001

We welcome your visit or correspondence
by letter or telex.

EDITORIAL

We Make It a Round Ten!

This summer H.K. China Tourism Press — publisher of CHINA TOURISM — proudly celebrates its tenth anniversary. To date, we have brought out 121 issues in the English and Chinese editions, 72 issues in the French edition, hundreds of articles and thousands of photographs in what we believe is a unique compendium of peoples, places and things Chinese. This of course would never have been possible without the support of our ever-increasing circle of readers.

Since China first swung open its doors to tourism around a dozen years ago, there has been a definite evolution in foreign visitors' interests. Thus, although there is a continuing desire to see world-famous beauty spots and great cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Guilin, etc. — especially for first-timers — more and more visitors are now aiming their sights at more off-the-beaten-track destinations: Tibet, the oases along the old Silk Road in Gansu and Xinjiang, mountain zones such as Jiuzhaigou in Sichuan, and so on.

This is why we are devoting this special anniversary issue to the theme of travel in areas only very recently opened up, with emphasis on trips which cross or follow the national boundaries. Other articles are included for general interest only, since they involve places off-limits to foreigners. We also bring you up to date on the adventures of Xu Lique, the photographer who is tracing China's borders on his motorbike, year after patient year.

In these pages you will find a number of special offers: subscription discounts and discounts off back issues. In addition, a small gift can be yours if you complete and return to us the enclosed questionnaire.

If you are a resident of Hong Kong or passing through, watch out for the exhibition of winning entries in our Grand Photo Contest at the Museum of Cultural and Historical Relics in Wanchai this October. Incidentally, the response exceeded all our expectations: more than 10,000 entries! We must again thank you for your support.



USSR



MONGOLIA



NEPAL

BHUTAN

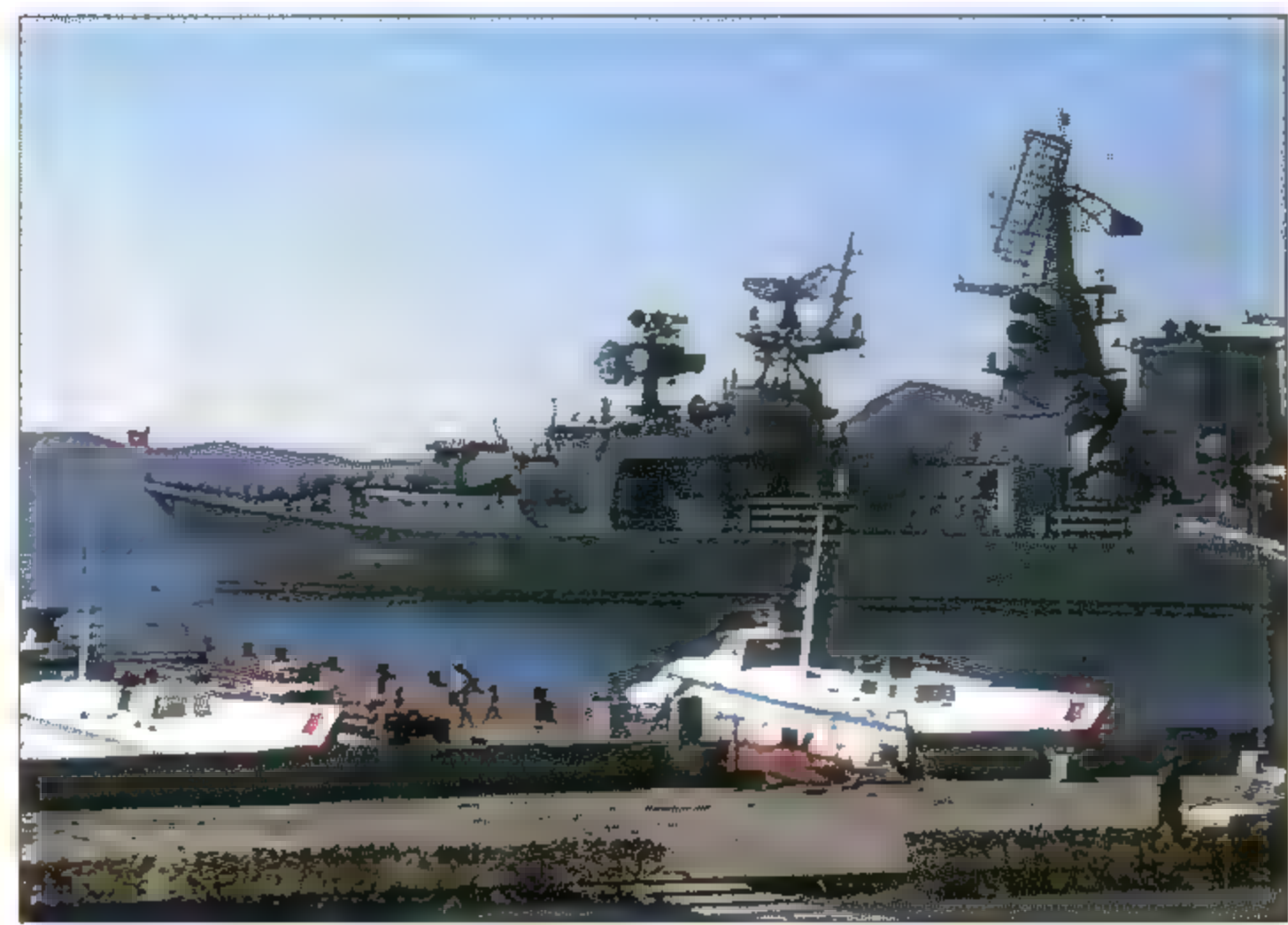


BURMA

老山
Mt. Laoshan, Malipo

VIETNAM





CONTENTS

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SPECIAL FEATURES

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- 78 A 'First' from Yining to Alma-Ata** Since 1988, third-country nationals have been able to cross from Xinjiang into Kazakhstan via Khorgas.
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- 90 Laoshan in Time of War** Departing from usual practice, we include photographs from three years ago, when Laoshan on the Sino-Vietnamese border in Yunnan was on a war footing.
- 96 By Motorbike Along China's Borders — The Odyssey Continues** Since 1986 Xu Lique has been travelling in an anti-clockwise direction around China's borders, recording his impressions and adventures as he goes; in this second article he reaches the coast of the Beibu Gulf in Guangxi.

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Manzhouli

綏芬河
Suifenhe

圖們
Tumen

Vladivostok

NORTH KOREA

丹東
Dandong

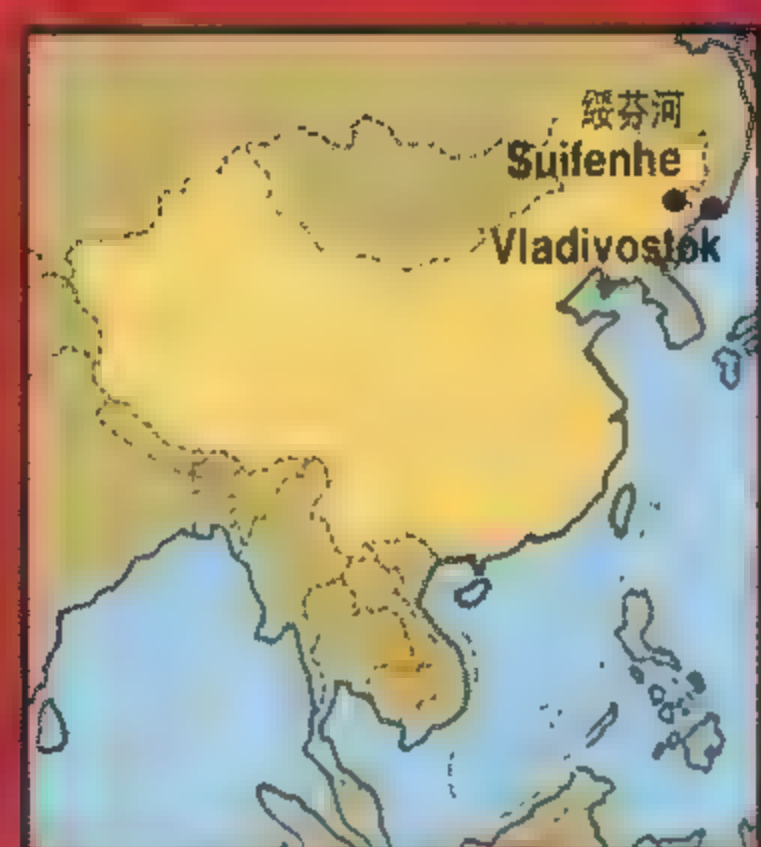
Pyongyang



Glimpses of the So



The shop selling goods from Vladivostok in Suifenhe



As the most important military base in the Soviet Far East, the home base of the

Soviet Far East

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY WANG MIAO



Its counterpart, which sells Chinese produce in Vladivostok

Soviet Pacific Fleet, Vladivostok is still firmly off-limits to most foreigners.

Our special correspondent had the good luck to be invited to join an official Chinese trade delegation.



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Farmhouses near Harbin (1); the gentle gold is repeated in the countryside between Mudanjiang and Suifenhe (3). Transferring refrigerators from the Soviet Union at Suifenhe's station (2).



It was October, late autumn in northeastern China. As the plane reduced height, preparing to land, I saw Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province, spread out below me in a pool of shimmering golden light. Soon after landing we took a train bound for Mudanjiang in the southeast, arriving early the following morning. We changed trains at once for Suifenhe some 150 kilometres further east, from where we would cross into the Soviet Union and make our way to Vladivostok.

Last Stop in China

After a six-hour journey from Mudanjiang our train pulled up. I looked out of the window and saw a signboard announcing 'Suifenhe Railway Station' on top of a Russian-style building where a Chinese flag fluttered in the wind.

On the platform, I caught sight of several Russians before a door marked 'Suifenhe Goods Consignment Office of Far East Railway Administration of Soviet Ministry of Communications' (!). I was told that there was an equivalent office for China on the Soviet side to facilitate trade.

Suifenhe is the last stop on the railway line within China. If you look at a map, you will notice that the line of the border north and

south of Suifenhe is much straighter than anywhere else in Heilongjiang. The line was drawn according to a Sino-Russian treaty (later backed up by the Treaty of Peking of 1860) whereby the two countries had to appoint people to study the wild borderlands. A Qing envoy was accordingly sent to undertake the demarcation of the territory. Travelling through such rough terrain by sedan-chair in those days was very arduous so, when the envoy reached the spot where boundary mark zero now stands in Dongning County south of Suifenhe, he just pointed with his stick. The result was that a straight line was drawn between Dongning and Muling!

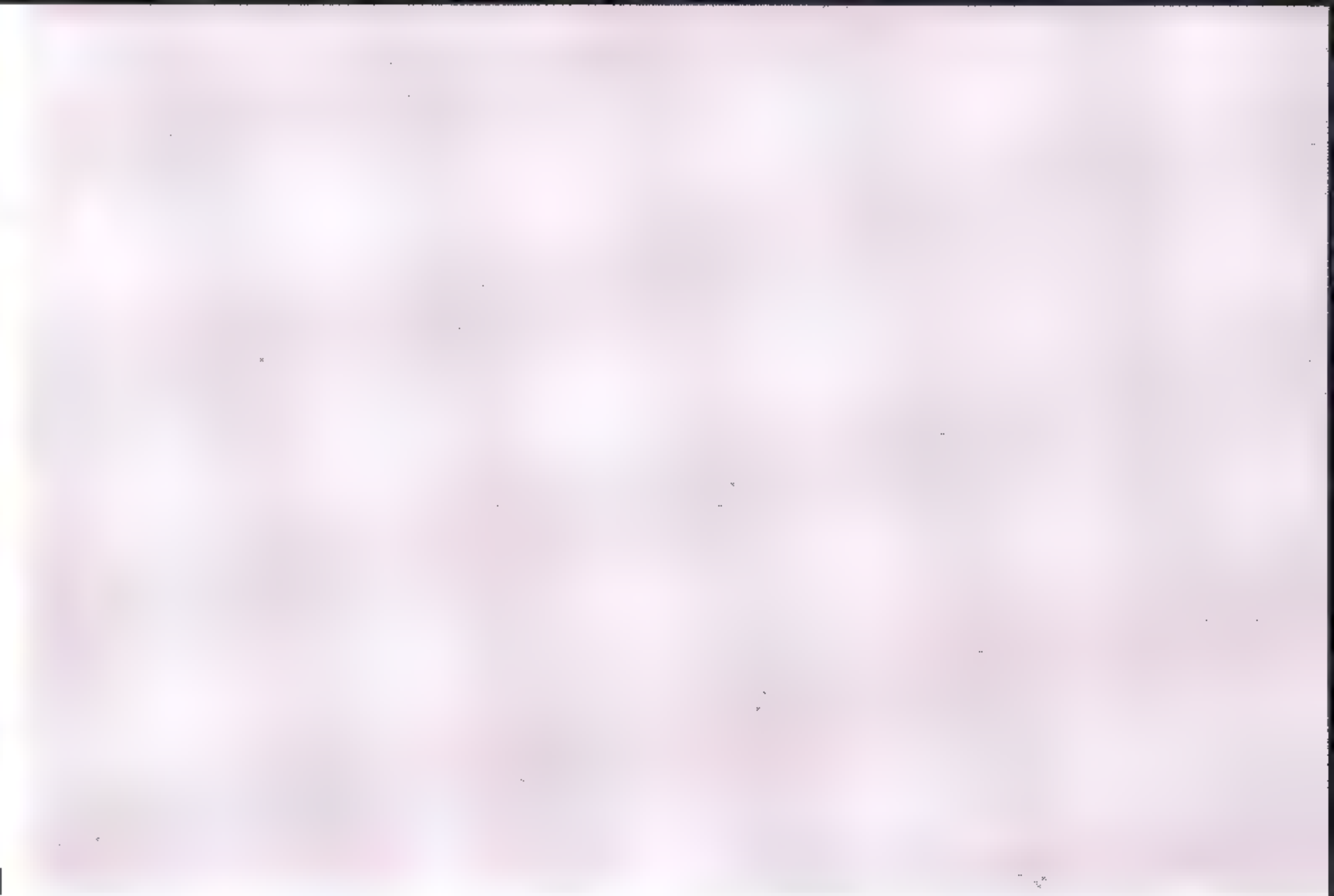
Russian Touches

Suifenhe was named after the river which flows through Dongning, some way away. The town presents itself as a serried mass of white and yellow buildings on the slopes of a hill, including some most eye-catching Russian-style structures from around the turn of the century. Overall, the town looks more European than Chinese. The houses, which are of wood, are very warm inside because of the building materials and the special insulating construction. An old lady living in one of these houses told me that her walls were something like a sandwich, namely plaster inside,





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bricks outside, and wood in the middle. The floor was made of wooden planks. As long as there was a heat source inside, she had no need to worry about the chilly temperature outside.

In the town there is a Russian restaurant jointly run by a food company from Khabarovsk in the USSR and a local enterprise, with an all-Russian staff. The interior decorations, furnishings and stained-glass windows seem very exotic to Chinese eyes.

I heard that, in 1985, a shop named Soviet Vladivostok Store was



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In Suifenhe, the sculpture of a swan in flight (1) contrasts with solid brick and wood houses in Russian style (2); the staff of the Russian restaurant hail from Khabarovsk (3). Sacks of potatoes await collection on the Sino-Soviet border (4).

opened in Suifenhe with goods for sale on consignment and that, on the very first day in operation, it raked in more than 20,000 yuan. But now there is not so much to see in this store, in my opinion, just heavy woollen overcoats, boots, hats for men and women and other ordinary commodities. The local people seem quite keen on the felt-lined boots for children and mini meat-mincers. Myself, I was more taken with what is known locally as a 'Gorbachev hat'!

It has been eighty years and more since Suifenhe became a centre for foreign trade. Opening up when the South Manchurian Railway started operations in 1903, it had its own customs post from 1907. Some eighteen countries had trading establishments here, including Britain, Japan, Tsarist Russia and the United States. All of these had their own flags hoisted, hence Suifenhe's former nicknames 'Flag Town' and 'Border Town Trade Centre'.

Quiet Border

The town itself is not very large. In fact, it took us only half a day to see most of it. And, apart from the area around the station, it is very quiet. So a local friend offered to take me out for a look at the border.

The road was flanked by a twenty-metre-wide firebreak. All the trees had been cleared along this channel, which was lined with a barbed-wire fence. After about five kilometres, the road was blocked by a rather flimsy wooden fence painted red and white. This was the border, but there was no sign of any soldiers or frontier staff. On either side stood a small house, each differing in style. These are intended for negotiations to settle local border matters: to recover animals which have strayed across, for example.

Back in town, it was time for us to think about the next stage of our journey. Although Suifenhe is the last station, the Chinese rails continue into the Soviet Union as far as a town called Pogradichnyy, twenty-six kilometres to the southeast.

We took a cargo train there — a trip of about half an hour. At Pogradichnyy there is a parallel set of Russian rails. When our train pulled up, all its cargo was transferred to a waiting Soviet train while Chinese labourers loaded Soviet refrigerators, motor-cycles, etc., on to our train for its return journey. This is apparently simpler and quicker than changing the wheels to match the different gauge.

Silent Forest

Once through Soviet customs, we boarded a train bound for Ussuriysk — only one hundred kilometres from Vladivostok — where



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Forest scenery in the Soviet Far East (1) as seen from the Aeroflot helicopter (2) taking us to the timber yard at Luchegorsk (3). The monument to the fallen at Ussuriysk (5). A Vladivostok beauty (4) and the harbour there (6).



we were going to visit a timber yard. To my surprise and pleasure, we were picked up at Ussuriysk by an Aeroflot helicopter! We were greeted at the airfield by a white-haired old gentleman, our guide for the duration. Almost as soon as we met, he bestowed a Russian name on me. During the next few days, whenever he saw me, he would call me 'Damala' and, before long, whenever I heard the name, I found myself responding quite automatically.

The helicopter was most comfortable. We flew over the vast expanses of the *taiga*, the silent forest of Siberia and the Soviet Far East. The hilly land was covered with broad-leaved trees; silver birch trunks shone in the wintry sunshine. Most of the land in this area lay fallow, although occasionally we caught sight of tractor tracks.

After flying for an hour and a half we landed at the timber yard at Luchegorsk. Here we saw great heaps of one-metre-long logs of Manchurian ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*) — a hardwood with a

beautiful grain, excellent for furniture. I had not realized that ash trees could grow so thick.

It was already afternoon by the time we returned to Ussuriysk, but we managed to fit in time for a stroll in the town centre. Beside a pale-green Russian Orthodox Church stood a monument in memory of unknown soldiers. Its design was unusual: the sculpted soldiers hung out in mid-air from the central pillar while an 'everlasting fire' burned in front. In a market close to the church, perhaps a reflection of the town's closeness to China, women pedlars were selling Chinese-made chewing gum.

'Mistress of the East'

We boarded a coach at Ussuriysk and headed for Vladivostok, entering the city in the dark. It was known as Haishenwei during the Qing dynasty. But, under the terms of the Treaty of Peking signed by

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A colourful mural covers the entire side of a building in Vladivostok (1), a pedlar sells chrysanthemums in the free market (2), while posters announce concerts and coming events (3).





China and Russia in 1860, it was ceded to Russia and named Vladivostok, 'Mistress of the East'. By 1880 it had become a fair-sized city. Today it is 543.7 square kilometres in area, the second largest city in the Soviet Far East, and the administrative centre of the Primorsky (Coastal) Territory.

Early the following morning, when I pushed open the window of my room in the Vladivostok Hotel, I was surprised to find myself looking out at the sea. The sky was an astonishing shade of blue. Located at the southern tip of a peninsula, the city faces Zaliv Petra Velikogo, an island in the Sea of Japan or — another way of looking at it — on the edge of the Pacific Ocean. The city centre is situated near the shores of Golden Horn Bay.

End of the Line

With what I remembered from the previous evening and armed with a precautionary piece of paper with the name of my hotel on it in Cyrillic script, I found my way to the railway station not far from the centre.

This green building in typical Russian style is said to date from 1912. Some trains from this station go all the way across Siberia to Moscow, although foreign travellers arriving by sea have to start their journey from Nakhodka further east and join the Trans-Siberian at Khabarovsk. This was the terminus of the Ussuri Line, built between 1891 and 1897, when the first official train entered Vladivostok. The line was later connected to the Chinese Eastern Railway via the line from Ussuriysk to Pogranichnyy, opened in 1899.

There are no officials at the station entrance to check tickets, so people come and go quite freely. I was told that there are no ticket collectors on the trains either, at least on short-distance trains, so it is really up to you and your conscience whether you pay or not.

Not very far behind the station lies Golden Horn Bay, its shores lined with docks, shipyards, warehouses and other port facilities. There were innumerable ships berthed there, including cargo vessels, oil tankers, warships and so on. This sea port is greatly favoured by nature, the reason for its existence. The bay freezes for an average of seventy-two days a year, less than in any other port in the Soviet Far East (and most ports in the Soviet Union bar the inland ones). Even if the water does freeze over, it can easily be cleared by ice-breakers.





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Chinese Goods in Demand

Vladivostok's main street, 6.4 kilometres long, is called Lenin Avenue, and it is flanked by government offices, shops, cinemas, and so on. These are mostly housed in five or six-storey buildings with large windows, some of them dating from the early twentieth century and most impressive. One of the most important department stores, which looks similar to the Qiulin Department Store

in China's Harbin, is a five-storey building selling all kinds of clothing.

Talking about shops, I should mention the China Longjiang Store in the city, opened as a counterpart to the consignment shop in Suifenhe. When I went to see it, there was a queue at the entrance and the guard was only letting in ten people at once. Apparently the shop is a bit too small! I was told that it had always been this packed

ever since it started business. I elbowed my way in eventually. On offer were bedding, fabrics, clothes and other daily necessities. Things such as postcard frames and photo albums, which are not available in the Soviet Union, were most in demand. However, the prices were truly staggering: a thermos flask with four glasses was selling for 150 roubles, equivalent to HK\$1,200.... Yet, despite the astronomical prices, there were people willing and able to buy.

Seamen Everywhere

To the northwest of the city lies Amur Bay, embracing a park. On a small quay-side there, a crowd of people were angling. Further down a path, we happened to see a queue waiting to buy tickets for something happening on an old ship. Curious, I too paid my five kopek (one rouble equals one hundred kopek) and went on board. The ship contained a large pool where a small whale was giving a performance. At its trainer's whistle, it balanced a ball on its nose, then jumped up high out of the water to kiss its trainer's cheek.



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The fleet's always in! The Pacific Song and Dance Ensemble in performance (1), Golden Horn Bay (2), and one of Vladivostok's ubiquitous sailors (3).



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Wood is a common building material in Vladivostok (1). The statues on the promenade are said to represent wives keeping watch for the return of their seafaring husbands (2).

Many things of interest in Vladivostok are connected with the sea. There is a floating aquarium housed in the former *S.S. Red Flag*, and a red-brick Museum of the Pacific Fleet displays an S-56 submarine of the Soviet Navy.

One evening we were taken to a theatre to watch a performance by the Pacific Song and Dance Ensemble, just back from a French tour, as I learnt later. They were all dressed as sailors and, although I do not speak a word of Russian, I could make out that it was all about the sailor's life.

The theme was apt since there are sailors wherever you look in Vladivostok. Most of its population seem to be either seamen or construction workers, and it is said that every family contains at least one sailor. The port is truly the *raison d'être* of the city. Apart from the navy, it is home to a large merchant fleet and is also a whaling and fishery centre.

The Wild and Woolly

Having seen much of the city, we drove out to the outskirts through the blazing golds and reds of late-autumn foliage.

Eventually we pulled up in front of a log cabin, some twenty-five kilometres from Vladivostok. What was our surprise to find ourselves facing a tiger against one wall, a bear on another. But no need to panic ... they were stuffed! There was also a leopard cat, sundry deer, pheasants, and so on. The cabin was aptly named 'Hunters Home' and was, in fact, a restaurant. I was told that many visitors to Vladivostok are brought out here to taste the local game.

We sat at a wooden table. The dishes served were all in Russian style and the utensils were made of wood, conveying something of the Siberian way of life.

Given the setting, our thoughts and conversation naturally turned to wild animals. A local acquaintance told me that the tigers which still live in this area are called Ussuri tigers — what we call the Manchurian tiger in China. They can weigh over three hundred kilos and they have been known to attack humans, especially people walking alone in the forests.

One Russian in our party told us that a tiger quite recently made its way into the city and spotted an elderly woman on her own. When she saw the tiger, the 75-year-old ran for her home (about one hundred metres away) like a shot, reaching it safely within eight seconds — a new world record! We all roared with laughter, but the man insisted it was a true story. He assured us the incident had even been featured in the local press.

Translated by Wang Mingjie





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Fun with the marine world (1) and walks along the seafront (3) are part of life for Vladivostok's children (2). The children's summer camp is an architectural delight (4).



Siberia and the Trans-Siberian

Enormous Siberia — covering an area of more than ten million square kilometres in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic — was opened up only relatively recently. It is, in a sense, the 'Wild East' of the Soviet Union.

The indigenous peoples of the eastern part of the region were Mongoloid, such as the Buryat Mongols, Yakuts, Evenkis and Tungus. Nomadic tribes such as the Turks and Kirgiz also made their way north from Central Asia. In the twelfth century Genghis Khan and his Mongols exercised power over vast tracts, followed by their descendants, the Golden Horde. Cossacks and Russians started to explore ever further east from around the sixteenth century onwards, reaching the Pacific Ocean in the 1640s. Trappers and fur traders were in the forefront of this colonizing movement, but gradually forts were established, becoming the basis for present-day cities such as Ulan-Ude and Irkutsk.

Until the early years of the twentieth century, the only way to traverse Siberia was by mail cart or horse-drawn carriages in the summer and by horse-drawn sledges and sleighs in the winter. Progress was slow and very uncomfortable, although the imperial couriers between Beijing and Irkutsk are said to have covered the

distance of thousands of kilometres in just over two weeks, using several hundred changes of horses.

It was only towards the end of the nineteenth century, after decades of discussions, proposals, rejections and more discussions, that agreement was reached to construct the Trans-Siberian Railway.

The mammoth task was divided into six sections, almost all commenced within a ten-year span. The work was initiated in 1891 at the Pacific end with the Ussuri Line; it took nearly six years to complete this 767-kilometre section of line from Vladivostok to Khabarovsk. The other five sections were the Western Siberian (constructed between 1892 and 1896), the Mid-Siberian (1893–1899), Trans-Baikal (1895–1900) and Circum-Baikal (1899–1904), and finally the Amur Line (1908–1916).

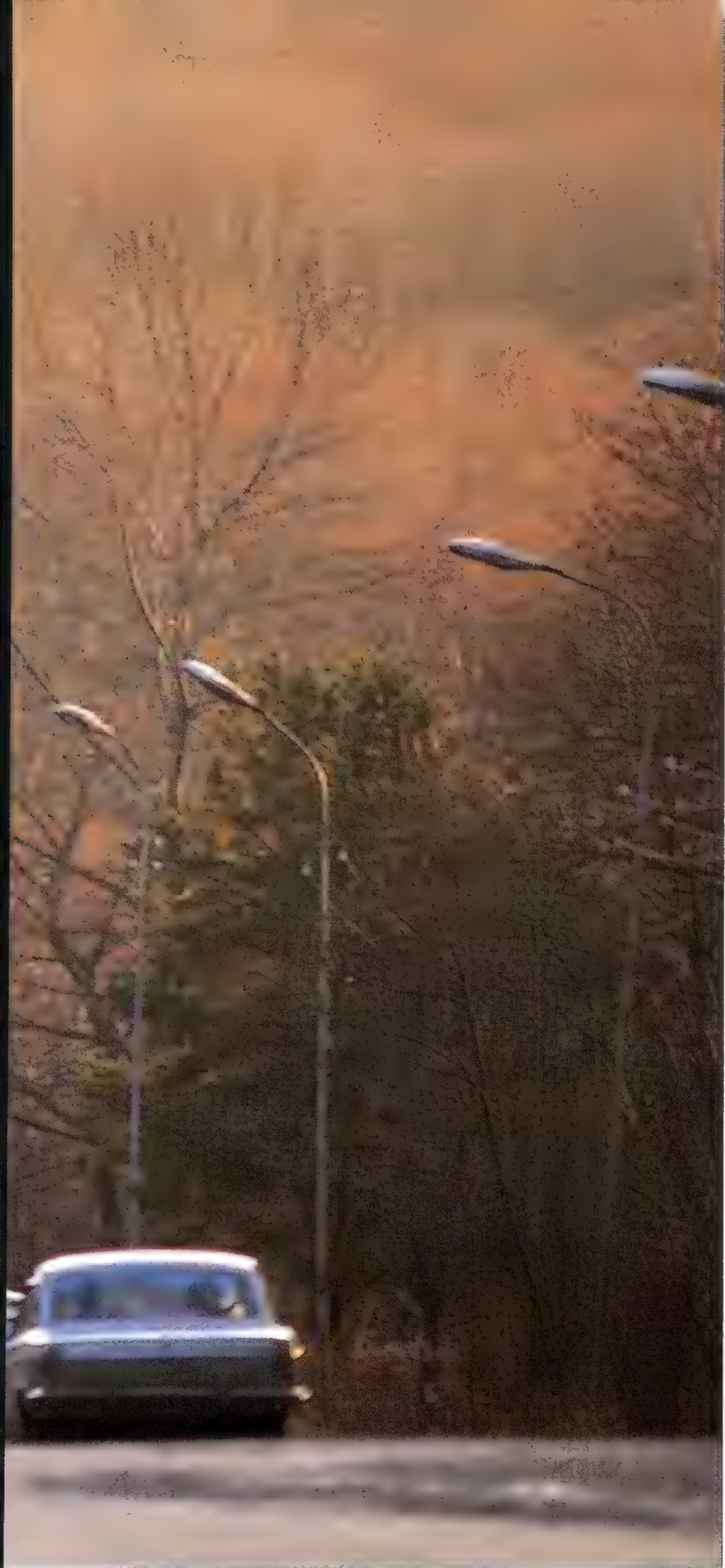
The River Amur (the Chinese Heilongjiang) was prone to fearful floods. It was therefore decided to build a 'short cut' across northeastern China (Manchuria) direct to Vladivostok from Chita via Harbin. This was the Chinese Eastern Railway. Construction started in 1897, connecting it with the Ussuri Line to the east and the Trans-Baikal to the west; it opened officially in 1903.





Every weekend, many city-dwellers leave the city (1) for their country homes (4). 'Hunters Home' (2). King and courtiers from a Russian folktale add interest to a children's park (3).





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Meanwhile, in 1898, Lüshun and Dalian on the Liaodong Peninsula were leased to Russia and permission was obtained from China to build the South Manchurian Line between those two ports and Harbin, linking in to the Chinese Eastern Railway.

After the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905, which was fought largely on Chinese territory, Japanese control of Manchuria made the Amur Line necessary since it ran completely within the borders of Russia. (As a side-note, China did not gain full possession of the lines running through its northeast until 1952.)

Nowadays, it still takes a minimum of eight days to complete the 9,299-kilometre train journey from the Pacific Ocean to Moscow. An increasing number of Siberian cities can be visited along the way, courtesy of Intourist, but Vladivostok is not among them. Most travellers passing through China take the Trans-Manchurian or Trans-Mongolian routes from or to Beijing, which cut out the Soviet Far East section and therefore take a few days less.

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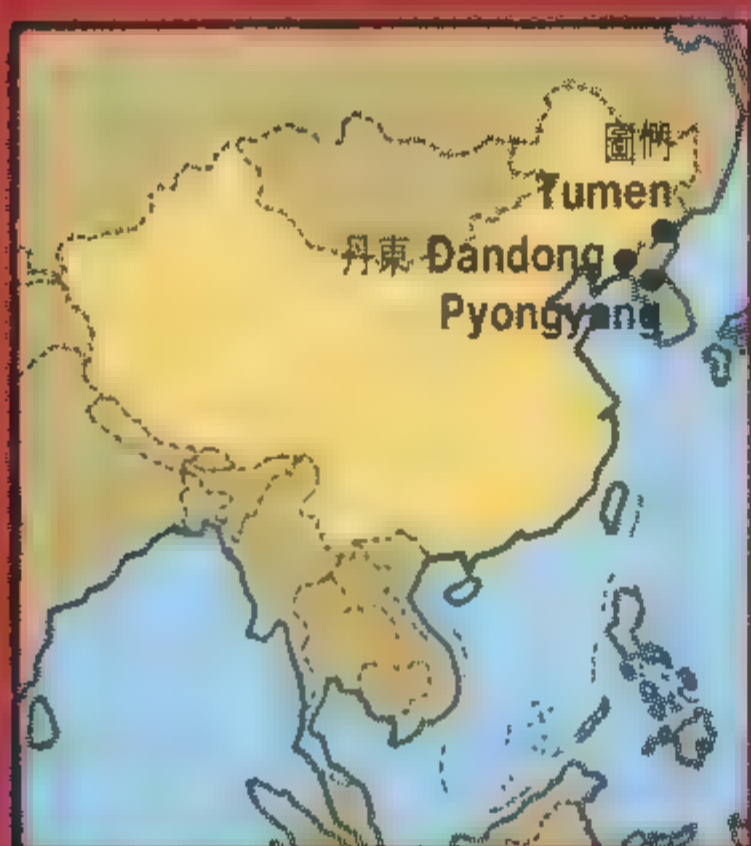


◇ BORDER CROSSINGS SPECIAL ◇

A Secretive Land



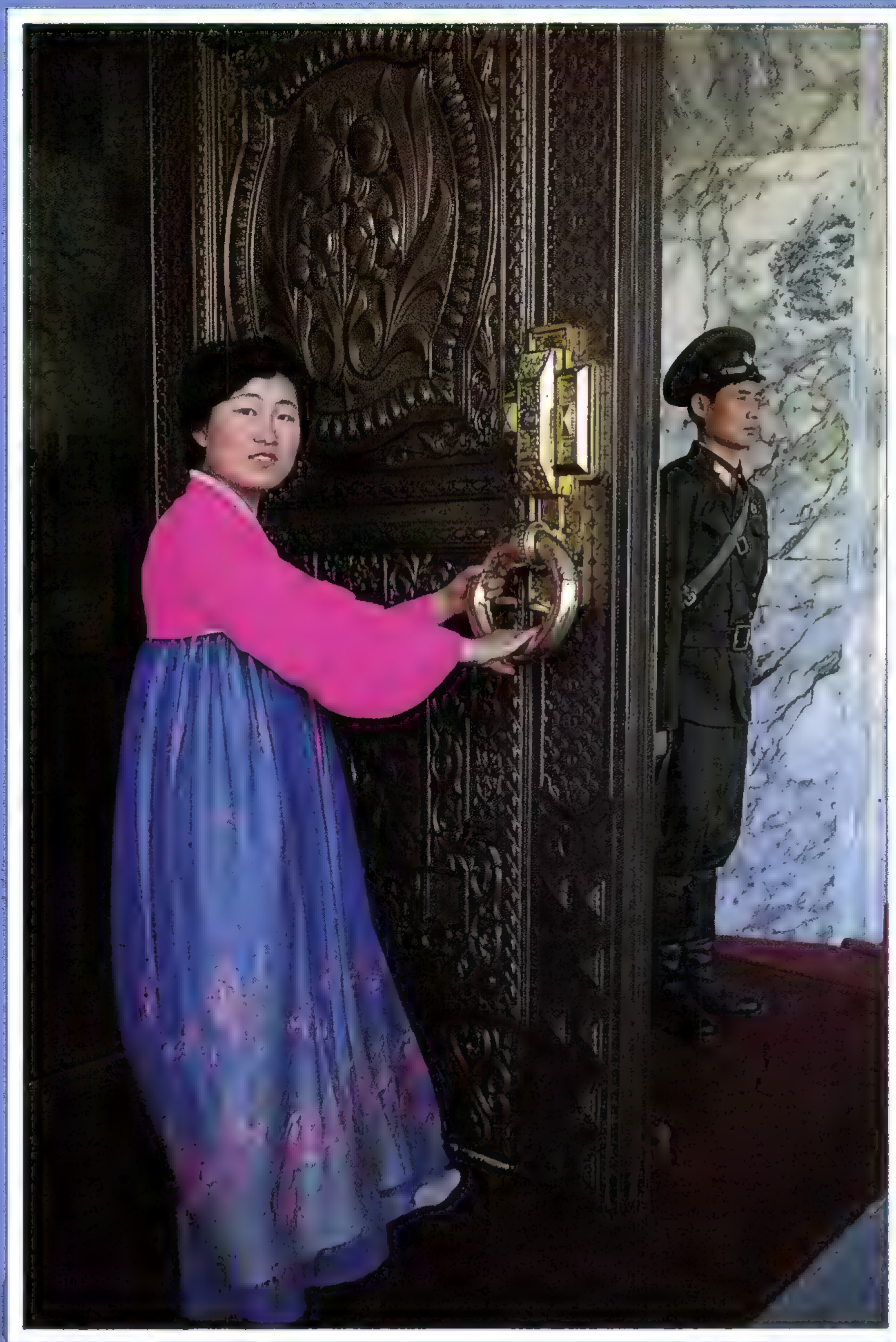
In bustling Dandong, the younger generation enjoys following fashion trends



The year before last, when I first stood by the River Yalu in Liaoning Province

Lifts the Veil

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

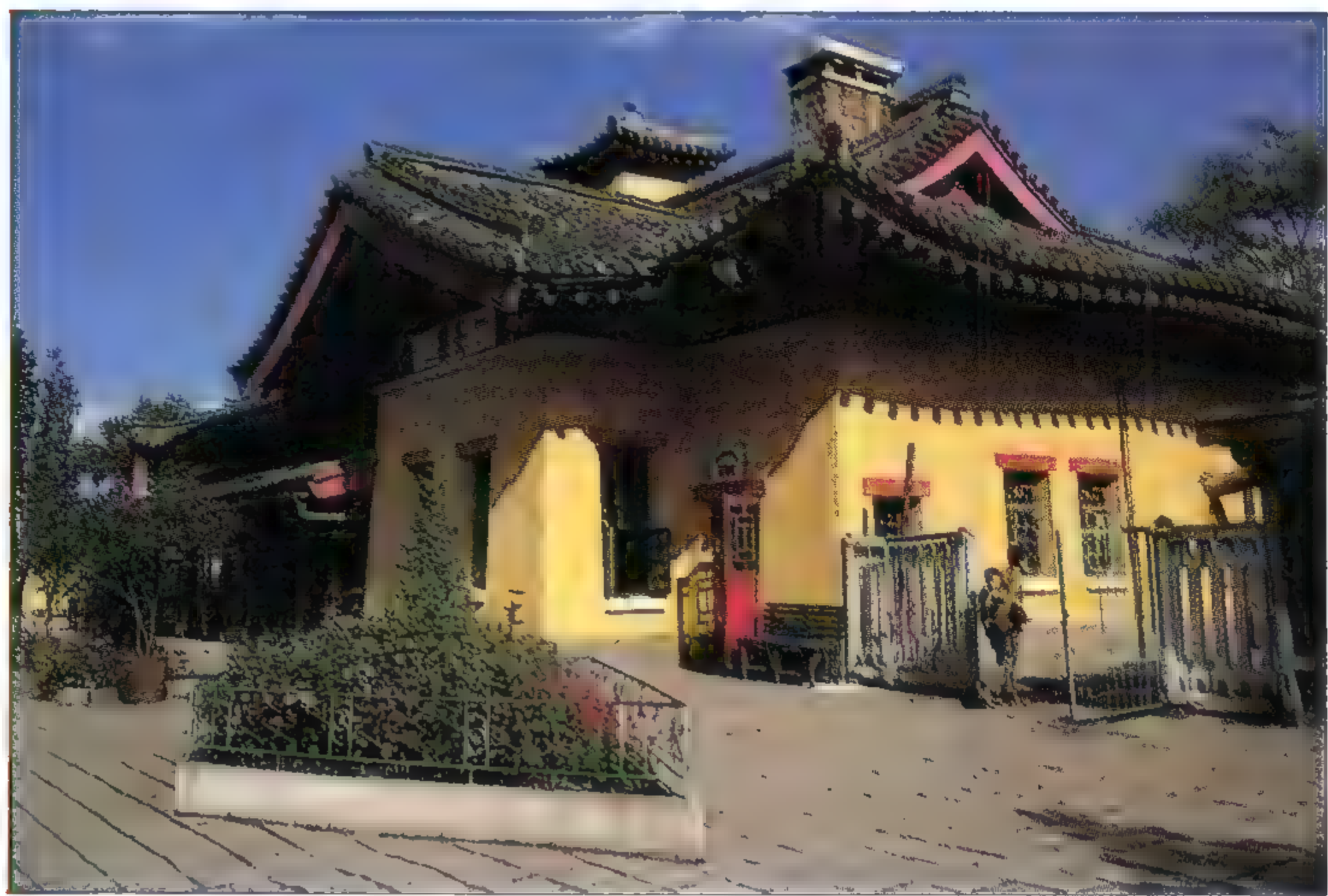


A charming invitation to enter the International Friendship Exhibition at North Korea's Mount Myohyang

and looked across at North Korea, I yearned to be able to see more of that 'hermit kingdom' so little known to the rest of the world. But at that time it was out of the question. Since then Pyongyang has opened its door, the merest crack, but enough for my dream to come true.



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I started this, my second journey to this border region, from Hunchun not far from the mouth of the River Tumen where China, the Soviet Union and North Korea meet. I then intended to pass through the cities of Tumen, Yanji and Ji'an on my way to Dandong near the estuary of the Yalu at the southwestern end of the border. From there, crossing the river, I would enter the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to give it its full title.

To begin with, however, I was facing not the Yalu, but the Tumen. Like the Yalu, it rises in the Changbai (Eternal White) Mountains in Jilin Province, but it flows in the opposite direction; the Yalu runs southwest towards the Huanghai (Yellow Sea), the Tumen northeast, emptying itself into the Sea of Japan. Together they represent almost the entire border between Jilin and Liaoning and North Korea, forming a sort of 'collar' across the neck of the Korean Peninsula.

Chinese Koreans

The 520-kilometre-long Tumen traverses Jilin's Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, the population of which is almost fifty percent Korean. There are in fact something approaching two million Koreans living in China's northeast.

My arrival in Yanji, the capital of the prefecture, fell on September 3, the anniversary of its establishment in 1952. In their holiday best, the local people sang and danced in celebration.

Koreans have not actually been settled north of the Tumen all that long. In 1644, the Manchu rulers of the Qing dynasty made the sparsely populated area on a line north of the Tumen and south of Yitong a 'forbidden zone' in order to protect their ancestral homeland. It was not until the mid-eighteenth century that people from other parts of China started to infiltrate the closed zone in secret, reclaiming land and hunting in the forests, which became a prized source of deers' antlers, sable and other furs, and ginseng. In the middle of the nineteenth century, farmers from the northern part of Korea also started to cross the Tumen. Several decades later, the Qing court finally lifted the ban and declared part of this area a special reserve for Koreans who became naturalized Chinese citizens. Since times were hard and there was famine in the north of the peninsula, more and more Koreans flooded into the strip of land about 350 kilometres long and 25 kilometres wide.

Many of the people I met were anything from first to fifth-generation immigrants from Korea. Accordingly, there are very close links between Yanbian and North Korea. At many places along the border I saw Koreans crossing in both directions, at Shatuozi in Hunchun, for example. And every day, at the customs office in Tumen, there are people waiting to greet their relatives.

First Korean Capital

Taking my leave of the warm-hearted people of the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, I crossed the Changbai Mountains — China's largest nature reserve, comprising 210,000 hectares of semi-protected virgin forests — and travelled southwest to Ji'an.

A small town on the middle reaches of the 800-kilometre-long River Yalu, Ji'an is quite well-known for historical reasons. In the year 3, it became the capital of the first Korean kingdom of Koguryo. Even when the twentieth king moved his capital to what is now Pyongyang in 427, Ji'an remained the secondary capital until 668 when Koguryo was overthrown by the allied forces of the Chinese Tang dynasty and the southern Korean kingdom of Silla. Later on, it fell



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The River Tumen winds through the peaceful border countryside (1). Yanbian's Koreans still favour variations of traditional dress (6) while, further southwest, the railway station at Ji'an displays Korean elements (2). A watch-tower on the border near Ji'an (4), where speedboats conduct tours upstream (5). A street scene in Dandong (3).



within the Manchu 'forbidden zone', and was forgotten for several centuries.

Looking for signs of past glories, I looked around, but found nothing. Ji'an appears to be a brand-new city. If it had not been for my guide, I would never have stumbled across the few ruins more than one thousand years old.

Ji'an stands more or less opposite a North Korean town called Manpo, but you can't see the latter from the city district. I hired a speedboat which took me upstream for about twenty minutes until a small town came into sight on the eastern bank. This was Manpo. The boatman turned off the engine and we idled there for a while, gazing at the town. It has many one-storeyed buildings with slanted roofs and wide, projecting eaves — typical of traditional Korean architecture. Buildings in a similar style can be seen at Ji'an's railway station.

On both banks there were people washing clothes and bedding in the river, or hanging their washing up to dry. The only things that marked this out as a frontier between two countries were the imposing fortified bridgehead (there is a railway bridge between the towns), the different national emblems on passing trains, and the huge white banners bearing Korean slogans that appeared here and there on the hillsides in North Korea.

At the Mouth of the Yalu

Of the four border points with railway links, only the Dandong-Sinuiju link is open to third-country tourists, while the other three — Tumen, Ji'an and Shanghekou, the latter between Ji'an and Dandong — are open solely to residents of the border regions. Dandong in Liaoning is thus the only land entry point into North Korea for most of us.

I went to the China International Travel Service (CITS) office in the River Yalu Building in Dandong and asked them to apply for a North Korean visa on my behalf. The 'short cut' to North Korea for foreign group tours has only become possible this year. I, however, was applying for an individual visa as a reporter. During the next few days, while waiting for my visa to be issued, I explored Dandong's every nook and cranny.

On the first day, I went to Dadong Harbour in Donggou County, which comes under the jurisdiction of Dandong. The harbour is situated on the western bank of the Yalu estuary, and I was sorry to have missed seeing it two years before.

It took me an hour to get there by car. The rather small harbour only has one wharf, two cranes, and berths for a couple of ships. But it is well-known since it is the northeasternmost point of the Chinese coast. My friends and I climbed up a crane to look into the distance and saw many grotesquely shaped rocks jutting out from the Korean shore. One of them rose from the sea, a hole through its middle, making it resemble an elephant with its trunk dipped in the water.

As we walked along the seawall, one of my companions pointed to a large stone tablet standing in the water. It bore four big Chinese characters reading 'Demarcation line between river and sea'. There are said to be two such tablets, the other one being on the Korean side. The significance of this is that, here, the river banks belong to either country while the river in between is regarded as common property. Thus the question of territorial waters does not arise within the river's limits — making it very important to define precisely where the Yalu stops and the sea begins.

Border Relaxations

In Dandong itself there had been some changes since my previous visit. Two years before I could only go halfway along the Yalu River Bridge — and even for that I had needed a



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The author at the Korean end of the Yalu River Bridge (1) and an overall view of the Yalu with Dandong and Sinuiju (5). A Korean pleasure boat approaches the Chinese bank for a closer look (2). Cross-border trips may yield lots of Korean goodies (3), while Korean dried fish is sold in Dandong's markets (4), as are silkworms (6).





Kim Il-Sung Square, the Grand People's Study House and Central Pyongyang from the Tower of the Juche Idea (1). The North Korean capital's traffic policewomen are elegantly turned out (2).



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The Arch of Triumph (1), the still unfinished 105-Storey Hotel (2) and the Metro (4) are 'musts' on any itinerary. Citizens contribute their free labour every Friday (3), while Kim Il-Sung's birthplace at Mangyongdae is regarded as a site of pilgrimage (5).

special permit — before a sign told me to 'STOP' (see CHINA TOURISM no. 105). Now I could walk right along the combined rail and road bridge to the boundary marker near the Korean bank. I could even walk past the marker and take pictures of it from both directions; it said 'Sinuiju' in Korean on one side, 'Dandong' in Chinese on the other.

A new riverside park has been laid out under the bridge in an area which was formerly out of bounds. There were many people boating on the river while I was there. Korean pleasure boats often approach quite close to the Dandong side, their passengers staring with as much frank curiosity as the people in the park. There is much friendly waving of hands....

Down from the bridge, by the exit from the Chinese customs post, there is a particularly busy spot where crowds of people gather to meet or see off relatives and friends. I saw wooden carts being pushed out from customs loaded with packages of all sizes, particularly electrical appliances brought over from North Korea (where they are apparently less expensive than in China), while food, clothing, bedsheets and other daily necessities were among the main Chinese produce disappearing into North Korea.

At the time of the evening meal, my friend went out of his way to suggest that I try a kind of dried fish. This is *miengtai* or wall-eyed pollack, a famous product of Korean waters and very delicious to eat.

Into North Korea

A few days later, the Korean side informed me that I had been granted an entry visa. At long last, I was free to cross the River Yalu.

At around nine o'clock one morning I drove in a car across the 940-metre-long Yalu River Bridge. A Chinese-speaking guide from the Korean International Travel Service had come all the way from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, to meet me. At the visa section in Sinuiju I was issued with my visa and after that there was nothing to do except go to a guesthouse for a meal and wait for the train journey to start.

Sinuiju is the main city of North Pyongan Province and, as we have seen, the sole point of land entry for third-country citizens. But it is not itself an 'open' city; I could only pass through in transit, not tarrying there any longer than necessary. Pyongyang is the only North Korean city linked to the outside world by air with flights to and from Beijing, Moscow, Khabarovsk and East Berlin.

Sinuiju is by no means as busy as Dandong. It is a quiet, clean place. The locals are simply but neatly dressed, also unlike Dandong, where the young people pride themselves on keeping up with the latest fashion trends. I must admit I noted a striking contrast between the lifestyles on the two banks of the Yalu.

I travelled on an ordinary Korean train. In appearance it was no different from a Chinese one except that the compartments were much tidier and much less noisy, since they were free from the continual din of the public-address system on Chinese trains. My fellow passengers seemed well-mannered and were very courteous, especially towards foreigners. My only regret was that the carriage rocked heavily, probably because the track bed was uneven. I had hoped to be able to take notes during the journey, but my pen danced like crazy all over the page and I was eventually forced to give up.

We arrived at Pyongyang at about four o'clock in the afternoon.

The Capital at Last

Early the next morning our car sped in the dawn glow along a broad avenue to begin a busy day's sightseeing in the North Korean capital.





Late afternoon at the Martyrs' Cemetery on Mount Taesong (1) as a child lays flowers before busts of the martyrs (2).



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Aerial acrobatics (1) and the swimming pool at a garden in Pyongyang (2). Young musicians perform at the Children's Palace (3), which contains a mammoth crystal chandelier (4). The bronze statue depicts Chollima, the winged horse of Korean legend (5).

The city is divided into two by the wide River Taedong, which flows through it from north to south. The western section is the city centre and is known as Central Pyongyang, while the eastern section is called East Pyongyang. The best place for an overall view of the city is undoubtedly from the top of the Tower of the Juche (Principal Body) Idea beside the river in East Pyongyang.

You enter the lift at the bottom of the tower after paying an admission fee of five won in the North Korean equivalent of foreign exchange certificates (in other words, money issued only to foreigners in exchange for foreign currency). The lift took us up to a terrace near the top of the 170-metre-high tower, providing wonderful panoramic views. The tower rises like a column straight up from the riverside and there are no real skyscrapers anywhere near it, so that you have an unobstructed view over Central Pyongyang on the opposite bank.

Directly opposite is Kim Il-Sung Square backed by a mammoth building – the Grand People's Study House. From this hall, Central Pyongyang radiates out in all directions with an astonishing degree of symmetry. I was surprised to find the city so well laid out. I was also surprised at its apparent newness.

In the early '50s, the city was levelled by the flames of conflict after the long Japanese occupation gave way to the Korean War. It is said that, by the time the truce was signed in July 1953, not an undamaged brick or tile could be found. A new, green city with a population of around two million has risen from the ashes of the old. In recent years more and more buildings have been added to its skyline.

The site, however, does have a long history. In 427, it became the capital of Koguryo, as we mentioned earlier, and remained so (although dominated by Silla for several centuries) until Kaesong further south became the capital in the tenth century under the new Wang dynasty of the Koryo (from which derives the European name for the country). Sad to say, no ancient relics remain, although some of the city gates have been restored.

As I stood on the Tower of the Juche Idea, directly below me lay the blue waters of the Taedong. At equal distance to left and right of the tower, two huge water columns 150 metres high spouted from the river which was dotted with tiny white boats like toys.

Back at ground-level, I surveyed the tower properly from outside. It was built for the occasion of the seventieth birthday of Kim Il-Sung, North Korea's president, in 1982. It is topped by an enormous twenty-metre-high 'torch' which glows red in the dark.

We returned to Central Pyongyang via the Rungna Bridge. As we were crossing the bridge, I spotted a gargantuan edifice on an islet in the middle of the river; shimmering silver, it looked rather like a flying saucer or some other apparition from outer space. This is the new Rungnado Stadium with a seating capacity of 150,000, where the 1989 World Youth Festival took place.

Around and About

Bearing to the west at the end of the bridge we came to the Potong, a second waterway, actually a man-made canal. Trees have been planted all along its banks to form a wooded riverside park.

The most eye-catching edifice near the canal must be the 105-Storey Hotel. Its towering cone shape, almost like an ultra-steep pyramid, had been the first thing to catch my eye when I arrived in Pyongyang. It can be seen from any street in the city, and no wonder! Three hundred metres high and with 3,000 rooms on 105 storeys, it is claimed to be the tallest and biggest hotel in the world. It certainly dwarfs everything



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around it. I was anxious to pay a visit to this colossus but was told it was not yet finished. Next time!

A trip on Pyongyang's Metro — the underground railway system — is another astonishing experience. First I obtained a fifty-chon (0.5 won) coin (the fare is the same regardless of the distance travelled) and inserted it into a slot to gain access to a lift which took me down about one hundred metres. Down below everything is as spacious as a palace, with mosaics on the walls, chandeliers overhead, and platforms and pillars of marble, obviously modelled on the famed Moscow Metro.

This, together with buses and trams, seems to be the main form of transport around the city. On the surface you see little vehicular traffic despite the broad avenues. Pedestrians are in a perpetual hurry to get somewhere, always moving purposefully; you see few people strolling at their leisure in the streets. Nor are there any traffic lights. Drivers watch for the instructions given by the traffic police, almost all women. They are good-looking and use touches of cosmetics, and in their uniforms they look very trim. Even the way they wield their batons seems smart! Whenever I walked past an intersection, I gazed in fascination at their upright yet feminine bearing.

More Sights of Pyongyang

The third day of my stay in the city was a Friday. Early that morning the hitherto deserted streets and squares were swarming with people. All in uniform, with red banners or placards, they prepared to march off in squads. Why? Friday is 'labour day'. Every citizen is duty-bound to take part in manual labour without compensation — on construction sites, in factories or mines, out in the countryside....

Me, I went to Mangyongdae.

We travelled by car for about twenty kilometres towards the southwest. After a while, an expanse of hills carpeted with pines and cypresses came into sight. On top of one hill stood a stone beacon built in ancient times, beneath flowed the River Taedong, the whole presenting an enchanting scene. Hence the name Mangyongdae (literally, 'Ten Thousand Views Terrace'). This place is famous for the Seven Valley Cave, the birthplace of Kim Il-Sung, the focus for visitors being the thatched homestead in which the president spent his childhood.

The place was packed with people and we had to line up and file into the cottage slowly. A most simple affair, the cottage (which consists of a number of separate structures) is well cared for; the thatch on the roof is beautifully trimmed in a rounded shape. The farming implements and cooking utensils kept inside are of traditional Korean type, now rarely seen. In these humble rooms I perceived the attractions of the simple way of life of an earlier age.

Returning to the capital, we paid a quick visit to the Martyrs' Cemetery on Mount Taesong, the statue of Chollima (a legendary winged horse which represents the spirit of the Korean people), the Grand People's Study House, and the 60-metre-high Arch of Triumph. These are the obligatory sights when one visits Pyongyang.

That day, my cup of delight was full when I visited the Children's Palace not far from Kim Il-Sung Square. It is a palace in every sense of the word. A structure of unusual magnitude, its interior is clad with some 55,000 square metres of marble. Its main hall contains many giant chandeliers; the largest, seventy metres tall, hangs from the roof right down into the body of the hall.

Our hosts were the talented children of Pyongyang, who come here every day to take part in extra-curricular activities. These are divided into various groups — art, music, dancing, physical culture, embroidery — for each to develop their particular skills and talents. Busy with photography, I found



The tense border situation makes Panmunjom a popular tourist jaunt (1); the mike cables mark the border line in the DMZ negotiation room (2). A traditional guesthouse in Kaesong (3), where tablets commemorate a loyal Koryo official (4). The twin tomb mounds of King Kongmin and his queen (5) are flanked by statues of civil and military officials (6). Our guide sports a 'Great Leader' badge (7).



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myself dropping further and further behind the group I had joined for the city tour. When I came to a room where a plucked twelve-stringed instrument (the *kakayeum*, like the Chinese *jiayeqin*) was being played, my group had already left. The children, who had just finished playing a piece for the others, were confused to see me turn up alone and unannounced on their doorstep, so to speak. This sense of embarrassment lasted for a few seconds but then the lead player gave a quick order and the children started playing and singing for me alone. I felt truly flattered and rather moved.

The Panmunjom Experience

Next stop on my itinerary was Panmunjom, the world-renowned truce village on the 38th Parallel. I took an overnight train and reached Kaesong early the following morning.

We headed straight for Panmunjom by car. It is about twelve kilometres south of Kaesong and our drive took us past villages and open fields. As we approached Panmunjom and the de-militarized zone (DMZ), the road became increasingly rough. Now and then we spotted odd-looking cement poles mounted on stone blocks which can be pulled down to act as barriers in the event of war. The roughness of the road surface is said to be deliberate, with the intention of slowing down any enemy advance.

Nearly forty years have elapsed since North and South Korea sat down at Panmunjom to talk, culminating in the conclusion of the armistice agreement and the setting up of the two-kilometre-wide DMZ in which neither side can keep troops. Since then each side has kept to its own territory north and south of the 38th Parallel, although this remains an area of high tension, constantly on the alert for signs of aggression. Relatively peaceful in recent years, the border is now — rather strangely, to my mind — attracting a growing number of tourists.

Flying a safe-conduct ensign, our car drove into the heavily guarded DMZ, with its high walls and electrified wire fences. All vehicles have to drive slowly and photography is prohibited until you reach Panmunjom itself. After we had driven for some way, we again saw farmland with farmers working on it in a leisurely manner. However, on some high slopes, we could see sentry posts fitted with high-powered telescopes. There was something incongruous about the scene.

On reaching Panmunjom, I was ushered into the small two-storeyed Panmungak Pavilion, from the upper floor of which I looked out at seven single-storeyed buildings, site of the negotiations leading to the truce between North and South. An army officer pointed to a line of cement running along the ground among the buildings and told me that this was the actual military demarcation line. On one side stood North Korean soldiers, on the other South Koreans, practically eyeball to eyeball. Their faces were stern and the atmosphere was fairly bristling with tension, but this did not seem to deter the tourists, who walked up casually to stare at them. However, we were warned that tourists would be shot by either side if they tried to overstep the line.

Directly opposite my vantage point stood a two-storeyed watch-tower on the South Korean side. Maybe because my clothes stood out from the others or because I had several cameras with me, the Americans of the United Nations peace-keeping force kept taking photographs of me — I was even videotaped....

In only one way may people from the North set foot on the soil of the South. Led by an army officer, we entered the negotiation room which contains a long table. The officer pointed at the microphone cables laid tidily along the middle

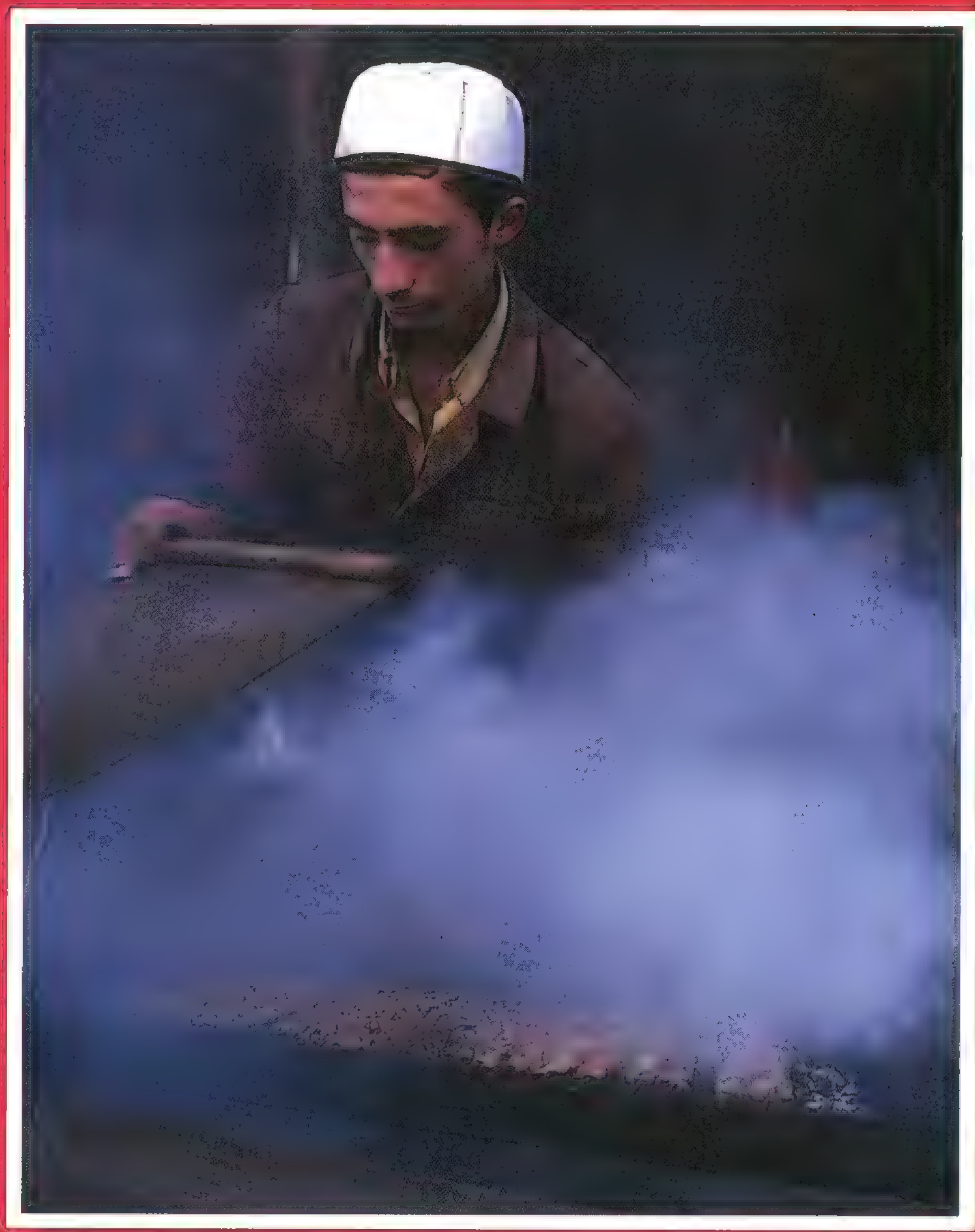
(Continued on page 141)

Countless treasures are stored in the International Friendship Exhibition (1), where you have to don cloth overshoes to protect the floors and carpets (3). Big smiles and high spirits as Youth League members enjoy an outing (2).

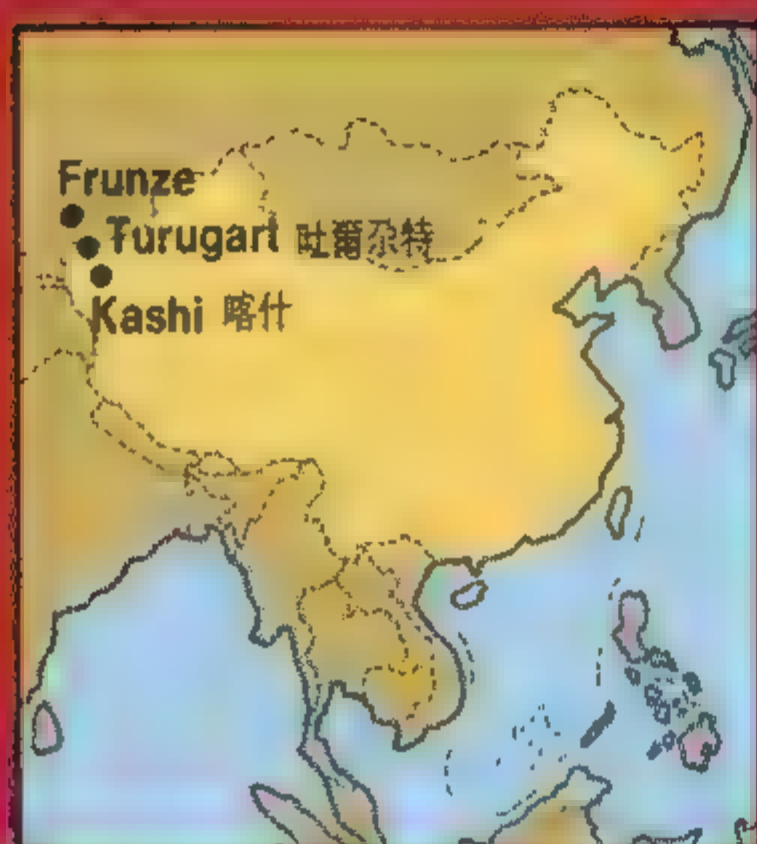


▷ BORDER CROSSINGS SPECIAL ◁

Central Asian Adventure:



A kebab-seller fans the flames as he turns tasty mutton skewers in Kashi



It has always been my dream to travel along the Silk Road beyond the Tianshan

Kashi to Kirgizia

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN KIN PONG



The central square in Naryn

Mountains in Xinjiang and see the legendary lands of Central Asia with my own eyes....



A Kashi girl's veil often exudes mystery (1). The nomadic Kirgiz (3) still roam in a land where motor vehicles are few and far between (2, by Chan Kin Pong & Peter Cheng). The arch marks the Sino-Soviet border at Turugart Pass (4).

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I was one of those who travelled along the 'northern' and 'southern' routes of the ancient Silk Road in northwestern China when they were first opened up for tourism. I was equally eager to experience the so-called 'central' route, which ran south of the Tianshan Range to Central Asia and Persia by way of the Pamirs and the Fergana Basin. However, I had to put off my plan time and time again since that section of the route which traverses the Soviet Union was not open to foreigners. Then, last year, the applications filed by myself and my friend Peter were finally approved and, in June, we flew from Hong Kong to Kashi (Kashgar) via Ürümqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The plane flew over vast deserts. Before long, an immense oasis came into sight. We were approaching Kashi, the largest city in southern Xinjiang (the Tianshan Range divides the region neatly into northern and southern halves). More than two thousand years ago, the city was an important stop on the Silk Road due to its position at the foot of the Pamirs west of the Tarim Basin.

This was my third visit to Kashi. The weather was hot and sultry, the temperatures up around 30°C. We drove from the airport into the city. It was bustling with activity, as it always seems to be. Uygurs (ninety percent of the population are Uygur) in traditional dress walked among jingling donkey carts. There were some new buildings since my last visit, but I personally prefer the old ones; the typical Central Asian architecture has a special appeal for me.

Sunday is the busiest time of all in Kashi when people flock in from the suburbs to the bazaars. Everywhere you see Uygur women shrouded in large brown shawls. It is the custom among many Moslems for married women to cover themselves to varying degrees, but it must be said that the wind and thick dust here make a veil over the face necessary anyway for practical considerations. Not all women use the brown scarf. Younger women often sport colourful, diaphanous wisps of nylon.

Before leaving Hong Kong, we had contacted the local tourism liaison office in Xinjiang, asking them to arrange for a vehicle to take us to the Turugart Pass. The morning after our arrival in Kashi, a jeep duly arrived at the hotel; the driver would also act as our guide.

We drove north towards the Tianshan Mountains. It is 164 kilometres from Kashi to the Turugart Pass. Although we were

travelling at some speed, we could feel the heat rising from the road. The desolate desert scenes flew by before our eyes. At one point, a level-topped hill attracted our attention. It was covered with 'wrinkles' similar to those at the Flaming Mountain in the Turpan Basin further east.

The first part of our journey was along an asphalted road. After that, we bumped along a gravelly track until we reached a checkpoint where the road to Artux forks off to the east. We got out of the car for a short breather. This checkpoint is truly out of the way. We met nobody except the few officials stationed there. Nor did we see any other vehicles. Further on, however, we passed through an area where two or three groups of Kirgiz shepherds were herding their flocks. Apparently, the yellowish-brown grass which struggles to survive on the mountains here is several times more nutritious than ordinary grass. These Kirgiz, whose grazing grounds we had been passing through, live in the Kizil Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture which has its seat at Artux.

As we continued on our road, some barren hills appeared to the north backed by a chain of snow-capped peaks. Pointing at the latter, our driver said: 'On the other side of those lies the Soviet Union.'

Three or so hours later we pulled up in front of the Turugart Pass Administration, a one-storey building in the settlement's sole 200-metre-long street. I had honestly not realized that this would be such a small border crossing.

Several trucks were parked at one end of the street in what seemed to be the cargo-unloading area. Every morning early, I was told, about two dozen trucks come over from Kirgizia with chemical fertilizer for examination by Chinese customs officers. At that time, all the workers in the border settlement — around two hundred — gather to help unload the trucks. This is usually the highpoint of activities for the day.

We took a walk along the street, savouring the cool breath of the air. This narrow pass through the Tianshan Range is on a plateau at 3,752 metres above sea-level. Even in the summer the temperature hovers around 10°C. Grain and other daily necessities have to be brought in from the south. Judging from the large radar and disc antenna installed at Turugart, however, we realized that it was in constant communication with the world outside. How could it not be, on this sensitive border?

While we waited for the Soviet side to give us the green light, some Kirgiz arrived, animals and all. They had obviously come a long way and their camels were laden with great bundles of clothing and other necessities as well as wooden tent poles. I noticed that the leading camel carried two gunnybags marked 'Postal Service' in Chinese and Russian. The nomadic Kirgiz, who can rove on both sides of the border, play postman in this region!





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After waiting for more than two hours in the reception room of the administration building, we had still had no word from the other side. Seeing how anxious we were, a Chinese officer arranged a meeting with his Soviet counterpart by semaphore. It became clear that the delay was because the Soviet frontier personnel had not been informed of the central government's approval of our applications. Finally, at five o'clock in the afternoon, we received the all-clear: we could cross the border.

This was the very first time that the Turugart Pass had been used as an entry point into the Soviet Union by people who were neither Mainland Chinese nor Soviet citizens. The Chinese border official scrutinized my passport (issued in Hong Kong) and papers for quite a while when I handed them over to be stamped.

Following the frontier jeep, our own vehicle climbed further up the pass, reaching the top after about three kilometres. In front of us stood a brown concrete arch, marking the actual border line. I wanted to go through the arch immediately, but an air of solemnity hovered over the pass and we were being watched closely by officials from both sides. It was obviously not the place to do anything impetuous or silly!

We were met by Soviet border guards who

shook hands and let us take pictures before ushering us down to the plateau on the other side of the pass where their own frontier station was located. It was well fortified, surrounded by two layers of barbed wire fencing, each over three metres high. At the entrance to the small building stood strapping guards in grey woollen uniforms and armed with machine-guns. The frontier post had a somehow temporary look; even the defence office was housed in a metal shed rather like a shipping container. The customs officers were polite, but their examination was very thorough.

Not far away lay a freshwater lake. Its grassy shores offered a sharp contrast to the barren hills we had seen on the Chinese side of the border. Now I understood why, in the local language, Turugart means 'a mountain top covered with grass'.

According to plan, our next stop was to be the town of Naryn, about two hundred kilometres to the north. But, on the way, we made an unexpected stop at the so-called 'Stone City', said to be over seven hundred years old; only the entrance gateway and some of the cell-like rooms are still recognizable. This may have been a caravan-serai on the old Silk Road, something like a fortified stop for merchant caravans, offering them and their animals and goods a safe haven for the night.

By the time we left the ancient site, dusk was falling. It was decided that we should eat supper at nearby Tashabad. A Kirgiz family played host to us. The head of the family invited us into their yurt home, typical of the

way most Kirgiz nomads live. The first thing that caught my eye was the corner where the family kept its food stores and cooking utensils. The white felt yurt had a curtain hanging in the centre, probably used as a partition to provide privacy when necessary. A small opening in the roof let in fresh air. The shape and the layout of the yurt was almost exactly the same as that of a Kazak yurt.

Supper began. Our host said repeatedly that he had prepared a traditional Kirgiz meal for us. The main course was roast mutton. Peter and I, as honoured guests, were offered the first bite from the cheeks and the sheep's eyes.... Nobody else could start until we did!

Afterwards we continued to Naryn, the third largest town in Kirgizia, arriving at midnight. We put up at a hotel in the town centre. Its simple facilities (there were no private bathrooms, for example) reminded us of the reasons cited in the past by Intourist for rejecting our application to visit this part of the Soviet Union. They had said that the road from China had still not been completed and that the hotel facilities were inadequate. I now realized that they had told us nothing but the truth, although travellers in such a remote region hardly expect to find a Hilton.

During our tour of Naryn the following morning, we saw a new holiday village constructed beside a brook on a secluded mountainside. There were Russian-style wooden houses and Kirgiz yurts there, as well as entertainment facilities. With the opening up of the Turugart Pass, I believe that more and more foreign tourists will come here for a taste of Central Asian adventure.

Frunze, the capital of Kirgizia, lies 260 kilometres northwest of Naryn. On the way there, beyond Lake Issyk-Kul, we visited an open-air museum in the ancient city of Tokmak, where more than one hundred pillar-like rocks are scattered over the grassland. There are human faces — broad and round with elongated eyes, high cheekbones and moustaches — carved on most of them. They look exactly the same as the faces on the figures known as 'stone men' erected in front of the Tujue or Turk tombs found in northern Xinjiang, especially in the Ili and Altay regions. In the sixth century all this area was ruled by the Turks. Many minority peoples in the region today, including the Kirgiz, speak a Turkic language. The Uygur are also descended from them.

Tokmak is well-known to Chinese people as the birthplace of Li Bai (701–762), the brilliant Tang-dynasty poet. In the very year of his birth Tokmak, then called Suiye, became



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Double rows of barbed-wire fencing guard the border at this point (1). A Kirgiz yurt (2) makes a fine setting for a sumptuous feast (3). 'Stone men' (5), a legacy of the Tujue, can be seen in an open-air museum near Tokmak, repository of other ancient relics like the Silk Road beacon (4).



3



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one of four strategic posts administered by the Anxi Prefecture of the Tang; the others were Qiuci, Yutian and Shule.

Behind the open-air museum towers what was a landmark on the Silk Road, a sort of beacon for the caravans. Later, in Frunze, we learned that there is also a Chinese-style pagoda on the outskirts of Tokmak, which we missed, not knowing it existed.

The highway between Naryn and Frunze is good. In days gone by, the Silk Road actually passed through Frunze. The city lies in the valley of the River Chu, and is dominated by the snow-covered Kirgiz Ala-Tau Ridge, part of the Tianshan Mountains. It has severe winters and hot summers. Until 1926 it was known as Pishpek, but was then renamed after Mikhail Frunze, a famous Soviet general who was born here. It became the capital of Kirgizia on the establishment of the union republic in 1936. The picture now offered by the city is one of typical Soviet buildings, Lenin statues and heavy vehicular traffic.

Unexpectedly, we met some Chinese residents of the city. Sauntering through the streets we turned, all unknowingly, into a lane where a small gymnasium was located. Some locals were practising martial arts there. One man seemed to be really good at *qigong*; he was not hurt when a red-tasselled spear was pressed against his throat. We asked him where he had learned the skill. He replied that he had a teacher whom everybody called

Master Yun, whom we promptly visited. Besides teaching martial arts, Master Yun had also set up an acupuncture clinic. Many people went there for treatment every day, which had aroused great local interest in this traditional Chinese therapeutic method. Master Yun told us that there were quite a few Chinese in Frunze, most of whom made a living selling martial arts weapons or running Chinese restaurants.

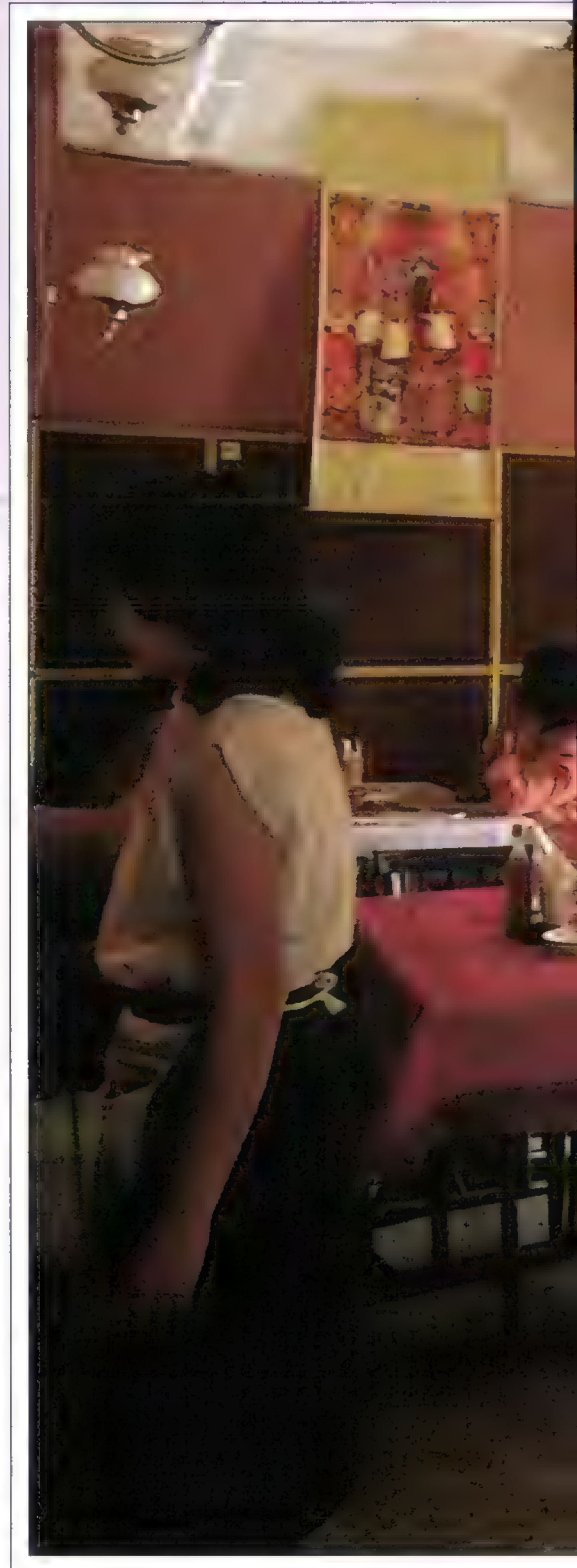
During our stay in Frunze, we heard the following story. The city of Osh in southern Kirgizia, not far from Fergana, was referred to as Ershi by the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220) when it was part of the Kingdom of Dawan (Fergana). Ershi, like Kokand to the west, was famous as the producer of a very fine breed of horse known as *hanxue* (literally, 'sweat and blood'). Emperor Wudi (reign dates 140–87 B.C.) loved fine horses, in fact he developed a passion for the 'heavenly horses'. He sent an envoy with a thousand taels of silver and a horse of solid gold as gifts in exchange for some of these horses, but the offer was rejected and the envoy killed. The emperor was so enraged that he sent his general Li Guangli (to whom he gave the hopeful title General Ershi) with an army with the express task of capturing some of the coveted horses at all costs. After a long siege, the expedition bagged thirty 'heavenly horses' and 3,000 horses of lesser quality.

This story so stirred our imagination that we decided to fly down to Osh. Once there, we realized with great disappointment that hardly any traces of the past remain. All we could do was visit the museums and wander around somewhat disconsolately in the town centre. But we did find something unusual

after all — street performances by acrobatic troupes! In one spot a child, aged no more than six or seven, walked casually from one end of a steel wire to the other. Elsewhere two men gave a breathtaking display on the tightrope.

Osh's teahouses also proved to be most entertaining. Big wooden bedsteads are set up outside, just like in Xinjiang. However, here there were even more beds and they were arranged so that they also shaded customers from the sun. It was a joy to sit there, drinking tea, chatting, and savouring the feeling of being deep in the heart of Central Asia where foreigners must be rare indeed. E

Translated by Anne Yan



In Osh, a boy displays
astonishing balance (1) while
his elders relax in a teahouse
(2). This Chinese restaurant
in Frunze attracts a lot of
Soviet patrons (3) (last two
by Chan Kin Pong & Peter
Cheng).

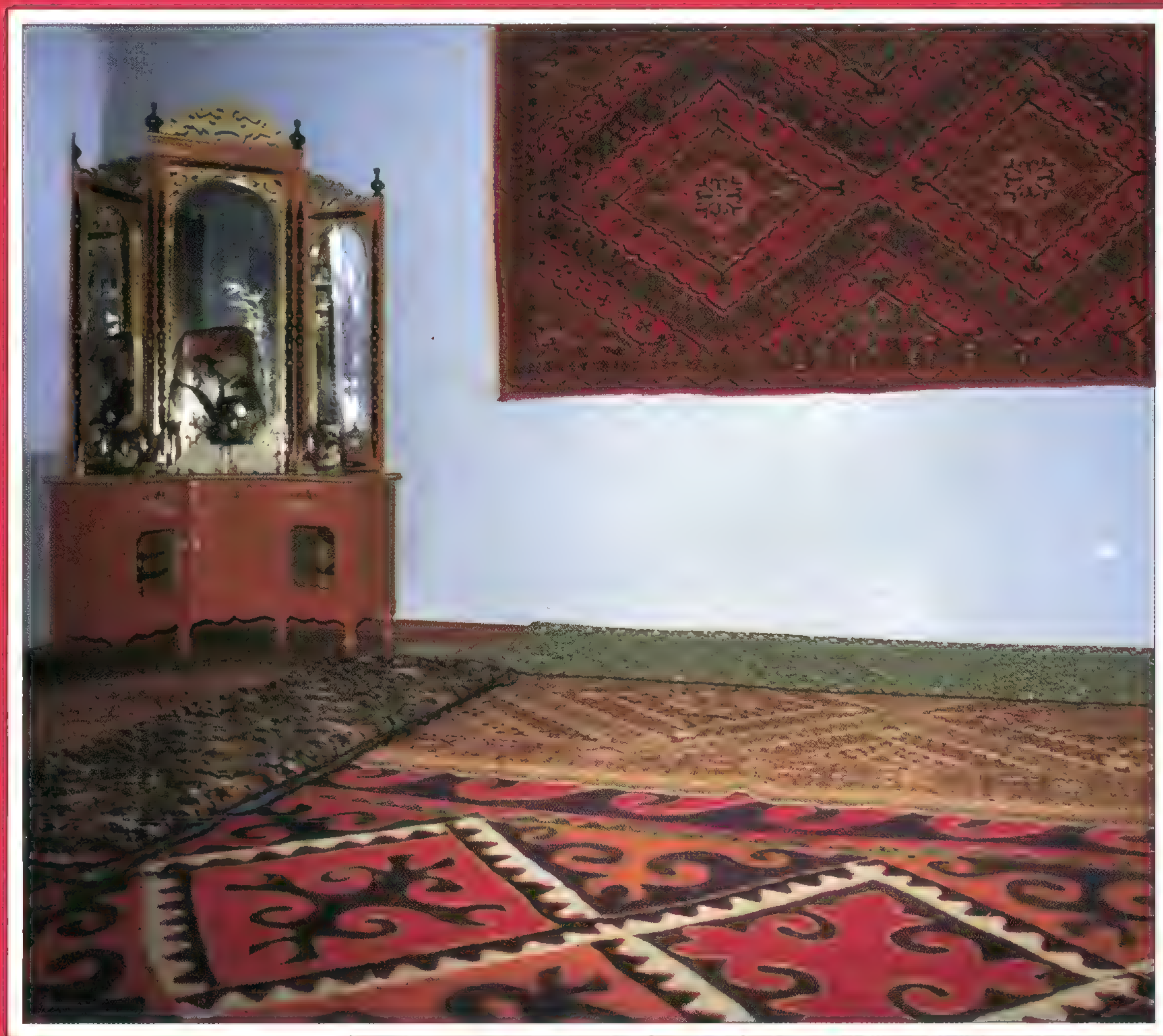


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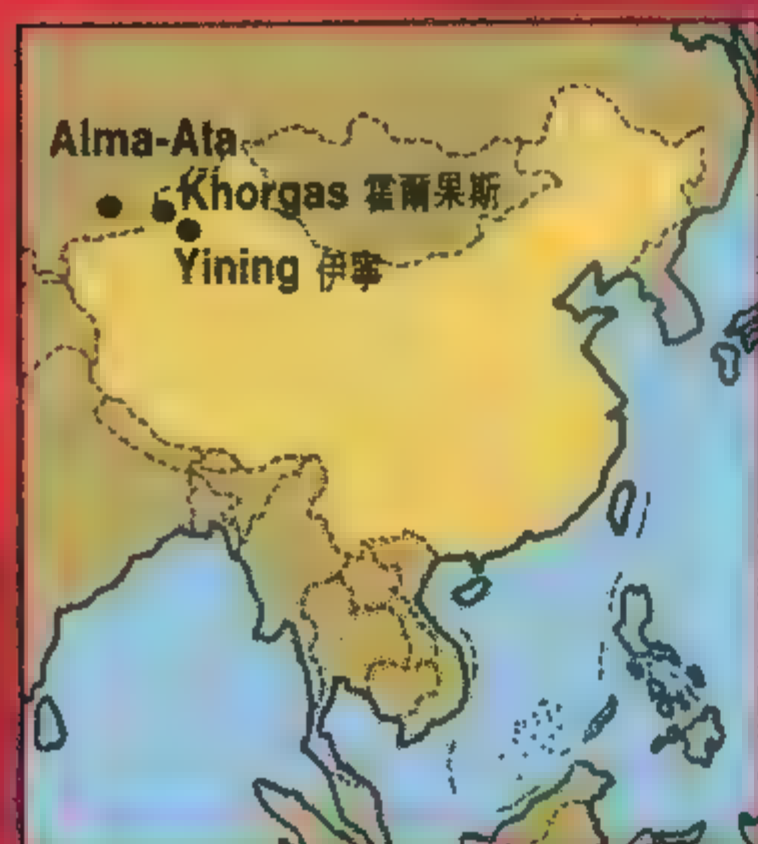


3

A 'First' from Yining



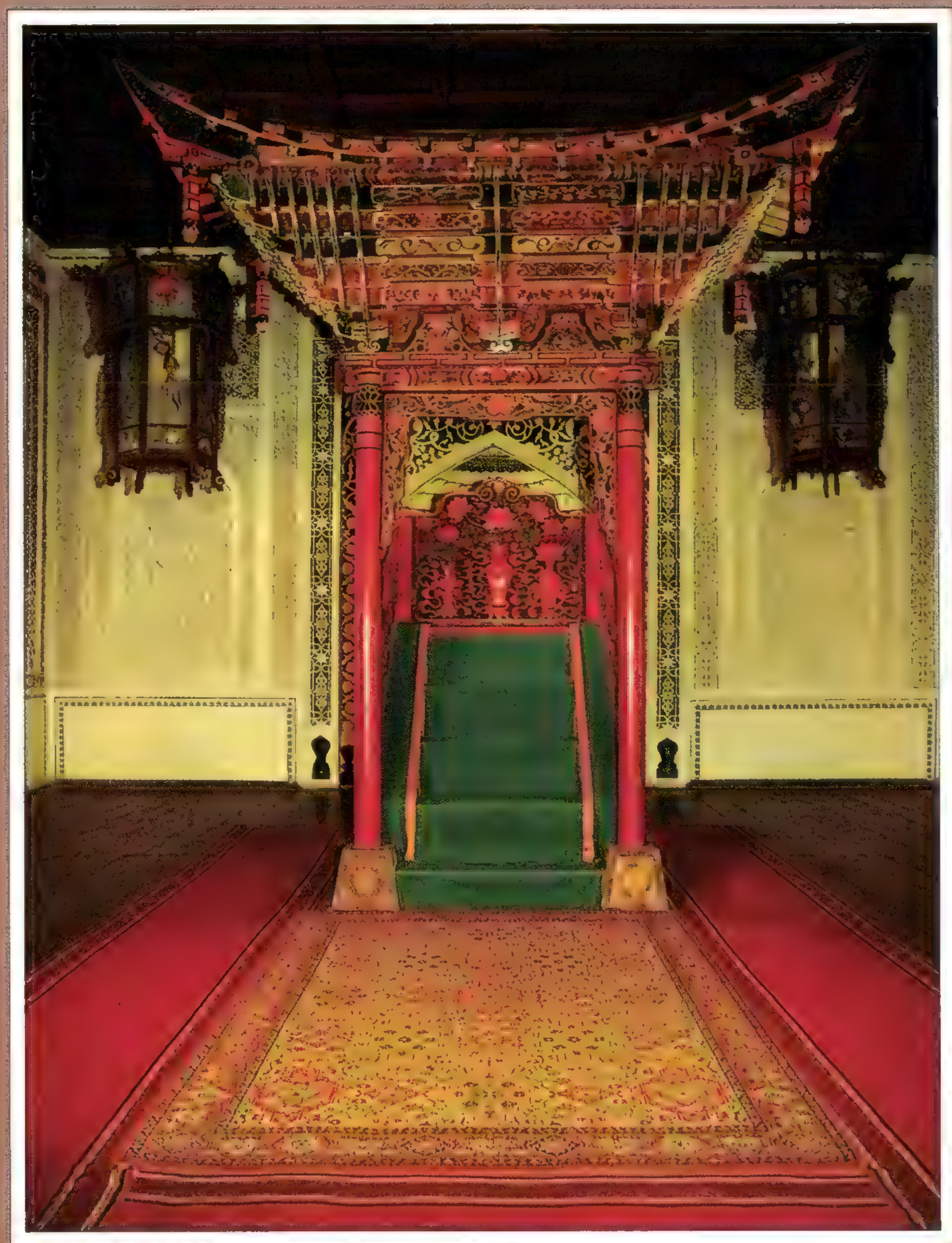
A Kazak home in Xinjiang's Yining blazes with colour, thanks to its carpets



With the final link between the Soviet and Chinese railway systems in northwestern

to Alma-Ata

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY STEPHEN WONG



The one-time Buddhist temple, now a mosque, in Kazakhstan's Panfilov

Xinjiang scheduled for completion later this year,
all sorts of exciting new possibilities are opening up for trans-Asian travellers.
Here is the story of one pioneering trip made in this region in 1988.



2

A view of the Soviet border installations (1) from Khorgas, where people – mostly Kazaks – queue every morning to cross the border themselves (3) or to greet relatives arriving from the Soviet Union (2). Another view of the mosque in Panfilov (4) and a Chinese pot in a museum in Alma-Ata (5).

It was in early April, 1988, that I first heard that Khorgas on the Sino-Soviet border in northwestern Xinjiang had been designated as a border crossing open to people other than border residents. In other words, it had become possible for third-country nationals to visit this part of Central Asia from China.

I and my friends decided that we would be the first Hongkong Chinese to enter the Soviet Union by this route. Our plan was to fly to Ürümqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Prefecture, to gather information, then fly to Yining and continue to Korgas by road.

Yining (Gulja), the main city of the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture, is located some seven hundred kilometres west of Ürümqi – a one-hour flight. This area has had a tumultuous history, and was involved in Yakub Beg's rebellion of 1865–1880. Ili was occupied by Russia in 1871, but restored to China by the Treaty of St. Petersburg of 1881.

We were travelling in July, and the

temperature in Yining was 30°C and over, although the mountains in the distance were robed with snow. As in other towns and cities of Xinjiang, the streets of Yining were full of the appetizing smells of spicy roast mutton wafting from countless stalls. The 250,000-strong population of Yining is mostly Uygur and Kazak. During a stroll through the city, we were invited into a Kazak house shaded at the front by a grapevine heavy with bunches of grapes. Entering under the grapevine trellis, we found the floor of the main room covered with colourful carpets.

Thirty kilometres to the west lies the ancient city of Huiyuan, the location of the residence of the General of Ili, the supreme military and administrative ruler of Xinjiang installed during the Qing dynasty (1644–1911). It was here too that Lin Zexu (1785–1850), the imperial commissioner in charge of banning opium imports in Guangdong, was exiled in 1842 by the Qing court, since his hard-line anti-opium policies were thought to have precipitated the outbreak of the Opium



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War (1840–1842). He is said to have helped agricultural development there by building canals and ditches, being an expert in water conservation.

But our way lay ninety or so kilometres further northwest. With a population of little more than five hundred, Khorgas consists of a single street and a few houses and shops. At the end of the street stands the customs and frontier inspection post flanked by a cement archway; this is China's most northwesterly 'door' to the outside world. Cross-border trade, a lot of it barter trade, has been possible since 1984.

The Chinese frontier staff were friendly and allowed us to take photos. But we were unable to see much of the Soviet side. Eventually, after much persuasion, the frontier guards permitted us to climb the lookout tower one by one. There was a telescope up there which brought the Soviet buildings into sharp focus. Although I could make out the Cyrillic letters 'CCCP' on the gateway, there were no Soviet soldiers visible. It was all very quiet on the border.

After breakfast the next day we proceeded to complete the exit formalities at the Chinese customs post. We had expected few people to use this border crossing, seeing it was in such a remote part of China, but we were wrong. There was a long queue already waiting, most of them Kazaks visiting their relatives on the other side. One to two hundred Kazaks a day are said to cross for this reason. There is also a considerable amount of truck traffic.

In less than ten minutes we were through. We boarded the coach sent by the Soviet state travel agency, Intourist, to take us to the Soviet border — a short ride of less than a kilometre. There, as instructed, we stepped into a wooden trough containing sawdust and disinfectant, a measure to prevent plague spreading through these regions, where it is still endemic. We declared our foreign currency, our luggage was inspected rather casually, and we were free to continue. Our Intourist guide and driver were waiting outside.

It is only thirty kilometres from the Soviet



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border to Panfilov, the closest town. Visitors coming from Khorgas usually stop here for a meal, and that was the plan for us too. As the restricted frontier zone extends for fifty kilometres from the border, on the way to Panfilov we saw nothing but barren hills and a few one or two-storeyed houses not far from the road. *En route* we had to pass through two more checkpoints where our documents were again examined by teams of officers, one inspecting the papers while the other watched, gun at the ready. These checkpoints were lined with electrified wire fences and there were dog patrols for extra security.

Around five o'clock we arrived in Panfilov, a small place with only a few buildings, one of which seemed truly astonishing in this setting. It was a three-storeyed Chinese-style building with turned-up eaves and *dougong* brackets, decorated with typical Oriental designs.

We went inside. On the second floor we found a room laid with a soft red carpet, very neat and clean. The guide told us that this was in fact a mosque. So why did it look like a

Chinese Buddhist temple from outside? Apparently, a Chinese merchant who had made a fortune in Alma-Ata settled in Panfilov after his retirement and built a Chinese temple to assuage his homesickness. After his death, the temple was converted into a mosque, Islam being the predominant religion of the Central Asian republics.

After dinner, we set out again without delay. Travelling along a straight, asphalted highway we were able to make much better time, covering the three hundred kilometres in about four hours.

That night we stayed at the Otrar Hotel on Gogol Street in Alma-Ata. The following day, escorted by our Intourist guide, we visited many places of interest including the Town Hall, Alma-Ata University, sundry museums, an art gallery, Vinogradov Street, Panfilov Park, Gorky Park and souvenir shops. We also went to the Registry Office to watch a civil wedding ceremony.

Alma-Ata, which literally means 'Father of Apples', is named for its excellent apples. Set at a height of 650-950 metres above sea-



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level, the capital of Kazakhstan is located in the foothills of the Zailiisky Ala-Tau Mountains, western spurs of the Tianshan Range, so it is never too hot in summer. It is a green city with many tree-lined boulevards.

Panfilov Park was right opposite our hotel, so we started there. It was laid out in memory of the soldiers (sometimes referred to as the Twenty-Eight Panfilovist Guards) of the 316th Division of the Red Army under the command of General Panfilov who gave their lives defending Moscow against the Germans during the Second World War. There are artillery pieces at the park entrance and, inside, an 'everlasting fire' is guarded by Young Pioneers. West of the park stands a 56-metre-tall church, the former cathedral, made entirely of wood. It is held together by brackets without the use of a single nail, a manner of construction used in Chinese traditional wooden architecture.

Afterwards, we went to visit the Kazak Aul Summer Tourist Camp, seventeen kilometres outside the city, in the Medeo Canyon in the mountains. It boasts a small museum,

a bar, restaurants, and horses and camels for visitors to ride. It is possible to stay here; fourteen Kazak yurts have been erected as tourist accommodation. We were sorry we were already lodged in the hotel!

The following day we had some free time, so we went to Lenin Street and took a cable car up Mount Koktsubek. By the side of the cable car station there is a wide terrace which gives a magnificent panorama over the city and the surrounding mountains.

Intent on seeing as many aspects of life in Alma-Ata as possible, we returned to the city centre and went to the market. Seeing a Chinese-looking pedlar clad in a T-shirt bearing the image of the Chinese-American martial arts star Bruce Lee, we approached him. He turned out to be North Korean, not Chinese at all. He said he loved to watch videos of *kungfu* films, especially those starring Bruce Lee. It seems that lots of young men in Alma-Ata regard him as their idol....

Translated by Gu Weizhou

In Alma-Ata, a city ringed by high mountains (1), traces of Kazak culture can be seen in objects such as this finely worked saddle (3) and in the concept of a local yurt-style restaurant (4). Bruce Lee fans turn up everywhere (2)!

▷ BORDER CROSSINGS SPECIAL ◁

An Impromptu Trek in



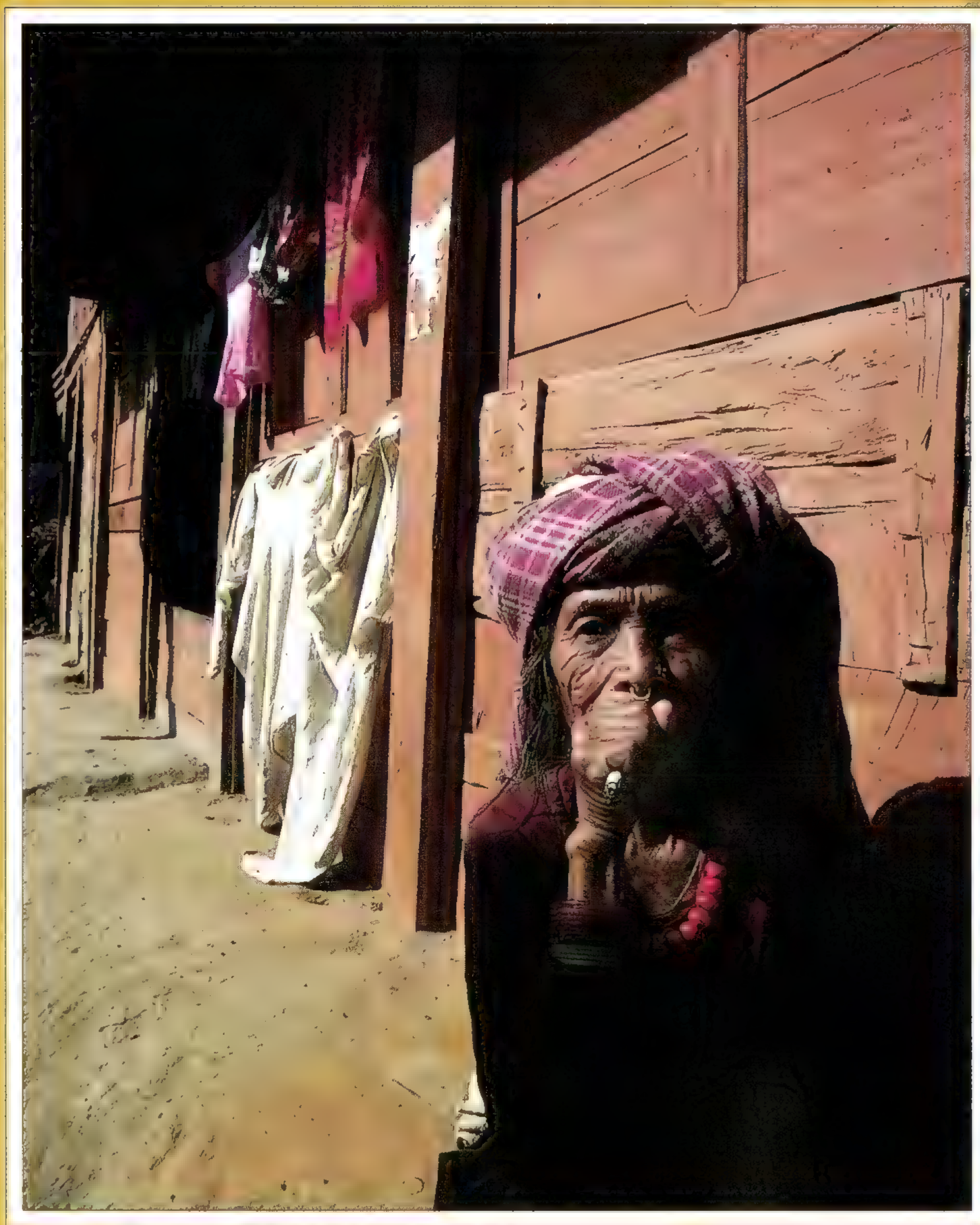
Endless streams of porters trudge between Tibet and Nepal (by Jark Ka Fai)



One of the most fabled overland routes in Asia runs across the highest chain of mountains

the Rain

PHOTOS BY ALFRED KO ARTICLE BY DI DI



It is the custom for a married Nepalese woman to wear countless plastic bangles; if her husband dies, she breaks them off to show her widowed status

in the world, the Himalaya. The Sino-Nepalese Highway, completed in 1964–1966, covers a distance of just over one thousand kilometres from Lhasa to Kathmandu. The road may be closed by snow, and is frequently blocked by landslides on the southern side of the Himalaya during the monsoon season from June to September, when visibility is poor.

After a tour of Tibet, my friends and I decided to take the opportunity to cross the border to the south and visit landlocked Nepal. Little did we realize what adventures lay in store for us!

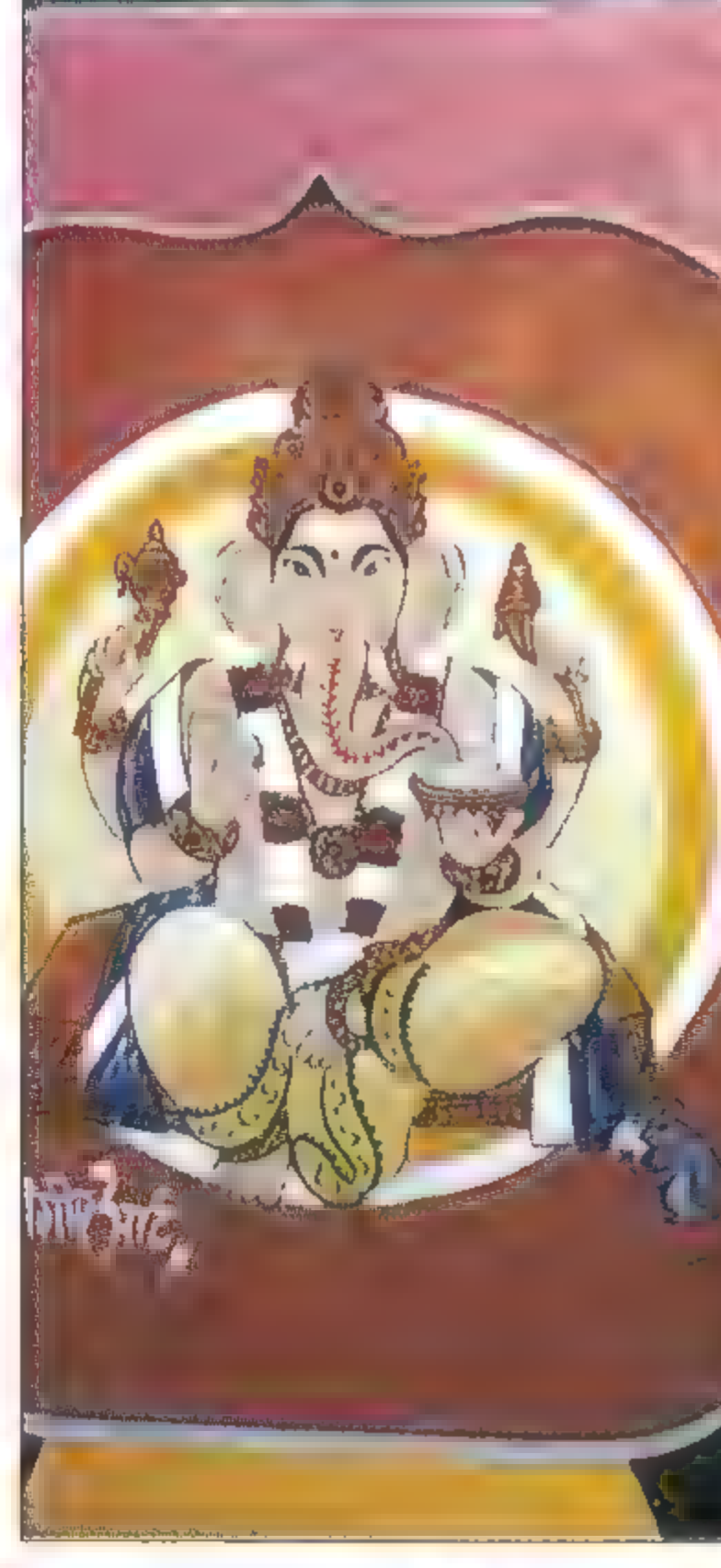
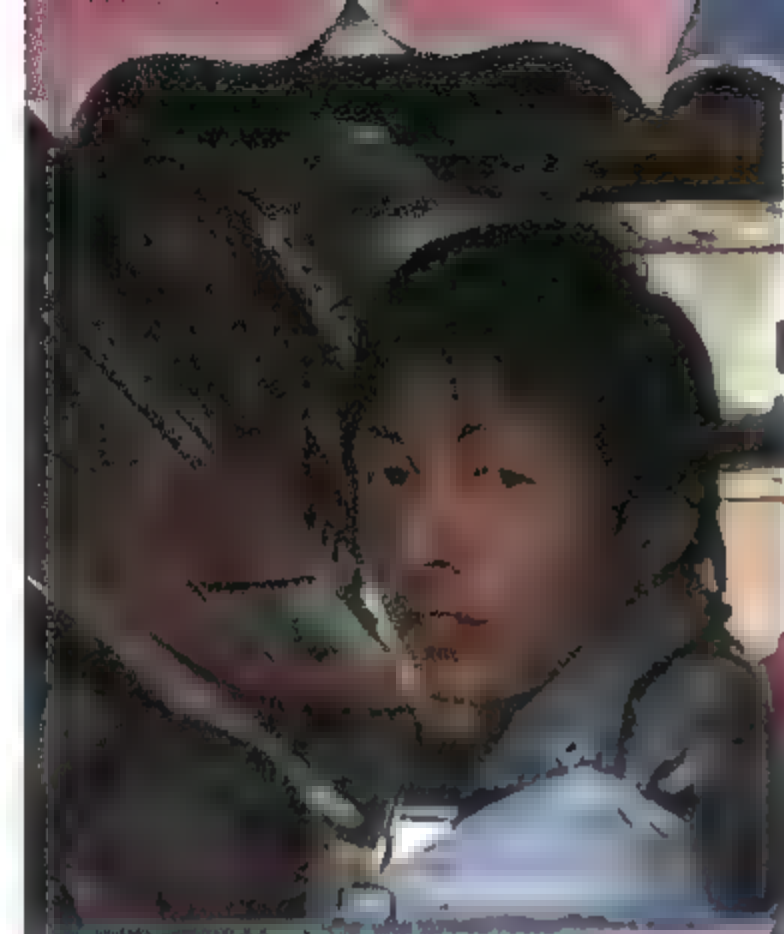
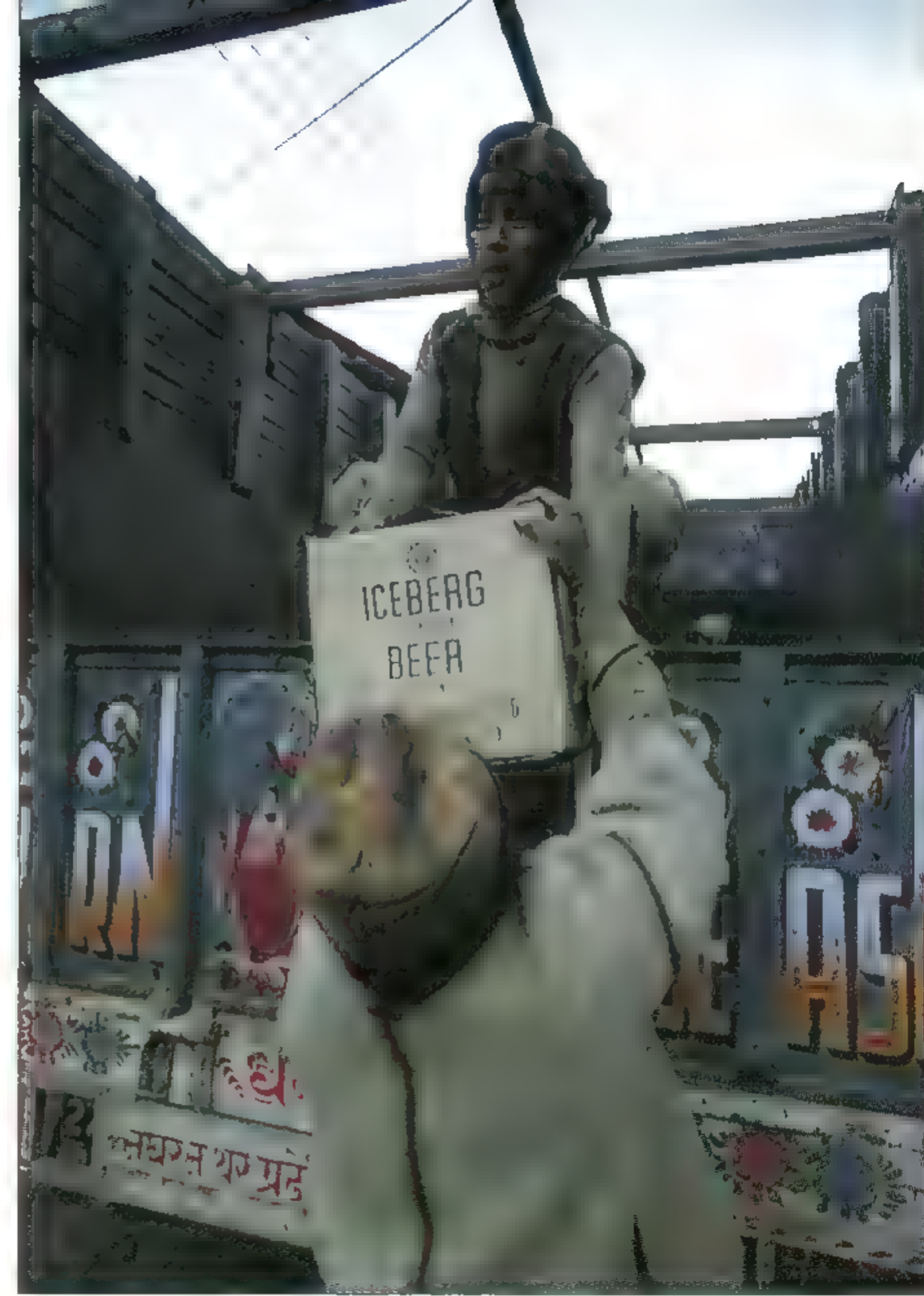
We boarded our bus at Xigazê, the main town in Back Tibet, without a thought of problems. And, for quite a way, everything went well. But then we braked to a stop abruptly on top of a mountain pass not far from Nyalam. Owing to the unexpectedly heavy rains which had continued for several days, the road was blocked by landslides. As we were only thirty kilometres from the Sino-Nepalese border at this point, we were understandably reluctant to turn back and made up our minds to continue on foot.

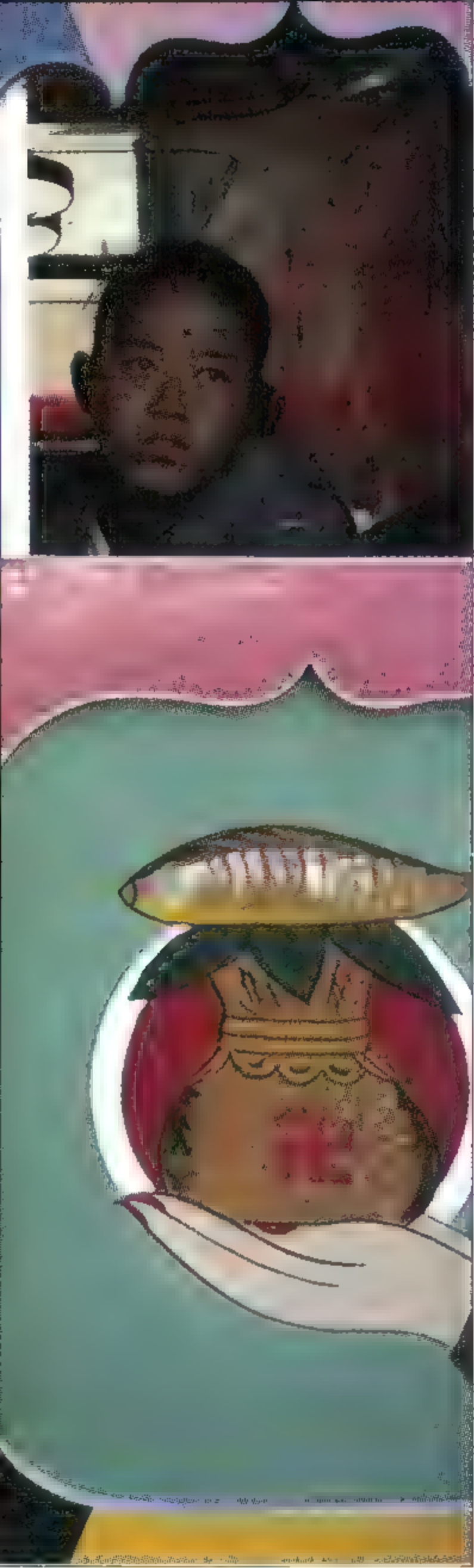
We were preparing to walk off through the driving rain, heavy luggage and all, when a group of Sherpas suddenly materialized at the roadside. They spoke to us in broken Mandarin, explaining the condition of the road ahead, and offered to hire themselves out to us as porters and guides as far as the border. Since we realized we were not very fit, let alone fit to carry all our luggage, we were happy to pay five yuan each for a porter. In normal times, these Sherpas earn their living carrying goods backwards and forwards between Nepal and Tibet. Some of them live in Tibet, but there are large communities in Nepal, especially in the Solu Khumbu at the eastern end of the country, towards Mount Qomolangma (Everest).

Nyalam lies at a higher altitude than the border, so our way was all downhill, sometimes very sharply. But this didn't make it any easier. Although the road is probably not too difficult normally, now it was piled with mud and rocks which had slid off the mountains, making it both rough and slippery. Intent on reaching the border before dark, we were nervy and awkward on our feet despite our lack of burden, in sharp contrast to the easy rhythm of the porters who were at home on much rougher terrain.

After some time, a crevasse more than a metre wide appeared where the road had been breached by a torrent cascading down the mountain, while overhead a huge rock teetered dangerously. We hesitated to advance, yet we really had no other choice. One girl in our group was frankly terrified; she jumped the gap with her eyes closed, holding up an open umbrella to act as a parachute in case of a slip! Another girl landed badly and would have fallen over the edge if her sharp-eyed, quick-witted porter had not saved her life by grabbing her hand. We all rushed to help tug her back on to firm ground. She was deathly pale and speechless for a long time; since she was too shocked to walk, her porter carried her on his back all the way to Zham.

Zham or Zhangmu, also known as Khasa, is a small town set at 2,400 metres above sea-level.





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Most of its houses are built of wood and are scattered among trees on the mountain slopes. Owing to the moist, warm air currents from the Indian Ocean which affect this southern side of the Himalayan Range, the vegetation and landforms are very different from those on the Tibetan Plateau.

The town's main street was busy with stalls set up by Nepalese living on the frontier who sell biscuits, beer, instant noodles and fruit. This is an important transit station for goods in both directions; Tibetans sell butter, fleeces and hides here, the Nepalese sundry consumer goods and foodstuffs. Kathmandu is actually easier of access from Lhasa than Chengdu, the closest major Chinese city. You can see black market currency transactions taking place surreptitiously if you look closely.

Though the homely lodge we stayed in overnight was simply furnished and the food consisted solely of pancakes with milky tea, it was adequate and it gave us our first chance to see something of local conditions.

The next morning, led by a new set of Nepalese porters, we made our way downhill along the zigzag trail towards the Chinese customs post. These porters, although hillmen, were slighter in build than the Sherpas of the previous day. Most of them knew a few words of English.

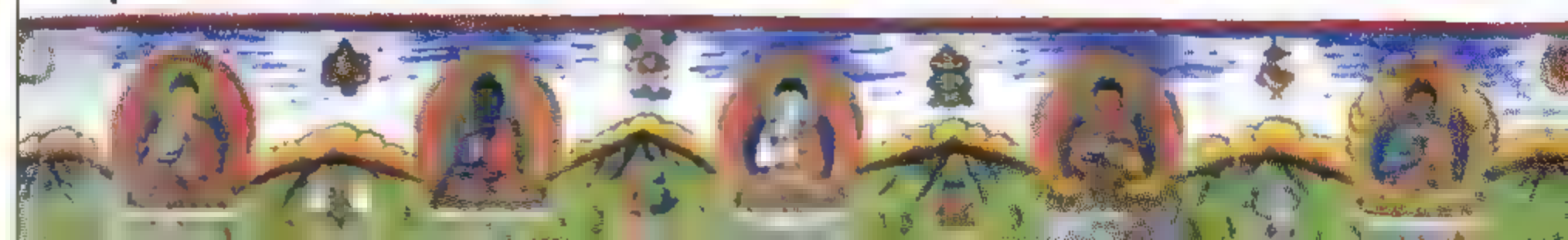
Having completed Chinese exit formalities, we walked for nearly an hour before reaching the Friendship Bridge, a reinforced concrete structure over the River Boqu (Bhote Kosi), which forms the actual Sino-Nepalese border. Built in 1980, the bridge was washed away in 1981 but has since been rebuilt. It is intended for vehicular traffic, but the roads on either side are often impassable.

Much to our surprise, although there were porters and others sitting around on the ground at the Chinese end of the bridge, there was not a single Chinese sentry or soldier to be seen. The atmosphere on this border seems relaxed in the extreme.

A twenty-minute walk brought us to Kodari at 1,700 metres above sea-level, where several timber shacks house the Nepalese customs and immigration office. Inside, a couple of officials went through our entrance registration in the dim light. The next step was to set our watches to Nepalese time — in other words, wind them back two and a half hours!

Border residents (1, by Chan Kin Pong) often hire themselves out as porters for tourists (4). The public bus between Barabise and Kathmandu is decorated with Hindu gods, such as Ganesh, and auspicious symbols (2). The fearsome kukri knife is an all-purpose tool in Nepal (3) (3 and 4 by Wang Miao).

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Only when we left Kodari did we realize the full scale of the damage caused by the heavy rains. This road was flanked by the mountain on one side and the river on the other. At that moment the road surface was buried under mud and rocks.... Anxiously, step by step, we advanced across the unstable, slippery slope. It would be all too easy to lose one's footing and roll down into the tumultuous embrace of the River Boqu below. After six hours on the road we arrived at Barabise just before dark, streaming with sweat.

Barabise was quieter than Zham in the evening. The lodge where we stayed had no restaurant and there was no food to be bought nearby, so we had to stave off hunger with canned and dried food. To our surprise, however, the following morning presented us with a completely different picture. The streets of this village were crowded and the stores offered a greater variety of foodstuffs than was available in Zham. We enjoyed noodles and milky tea at a small open-air stall before continuing on foot as far as the bus terminus. After bidding farewell to my porter and taking a seat on the colourfully painted bus, I was happy to take the weight off my feet and relax for a while.

The bus was crowded with cheerful tourists from China and other countries, as well as Tibetans and Nepalese. It swept along the smooth road through beautiful rural scenery on its more than four-hour journey, stopping at small towns where children ran up beside the bus to hawk fruit through the windows. Tempted by the big, fleshy mangoes, I bought two for the (by Hong Kong standards, incredibly cheap) price of five Nepalese rupees — about thirty H.K. cents. The Panchkhal Valley between Dolalghat and Dhulikhali is noted for its mangoes and guavas as well as sugar-cane and rice.

These scenes, such a contrast from the barren expanses of the Tibetan Plateau, prepared us for what we would find in the fertile Kathmandu Valley. Set at around 1,350 metres above sea-level within a circle of hills and mountains, this is said to have been a lake in ancient times. It contains three cities, Kathmandu, Lalitpur (Patan) and Bhaktapur (Bhadgaon), which — despite their proximity — were small independent kingdoms until the late eighteenth century. All three contain astonishingly rich art and architecture, the legacy of the Newars who still predominate in the valley, and are, in a sense, 'living museums'. Although Bhaktapur seems to have preserved its atmosphere almost intact, there has been an inevitable degree of modernization in Kathmandu and Patan.

Even so, as the bus pulled into the centre of Kathmandu, my first impression was that there were few tall buildings in the capital of Nepal. In the town centre, the streets are lined with two to three-storeyed buildings of brick and stone. Thamel, the area where we stayed, north of the centre, has a concentration of inexpensive guesthouses and



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hotels and countless restaurants and bars. This was a gathering point for Western hippies and eternal wanderers, but the recent introduction of a rule limiting foreigners to a stay of three months per year has cramped their possibilities.

Nepal is the only Hindu kingdom in the world. Kings of past ages built large numbers of temples, stupas, shrines and monasteries (according to incomplete data, within Kathmandu's area of only seven square kilometres there are 250 temples and stupas). The proliferation of religious buildings is also partly due to Hinduism's massive pantheon of gods. The most famous Hindu temple in Nepal is Pashupatinath, east of Kathmandu, dedicated to Shiva (and closed to non-Hindus). There are countless Shiva temples. Vishnu is also widely worshipped (King Birendra is considered a descendant of Vishnu). The best-known shrine to the fearsome goddess Kali, an aspect of Shiva's consort Parvati, is Daxinkali. This temple is located on the southern rim of the Kathmandu Valley, about forty-five minutes by road from the capital. Every Tuesday and Saturday morning, devotees of Kali crowd there to offer her sacrifices, sprinkling her statue with the blood of freshly slaughtered chickens and goats.

But Buddhism too has many followers in Nepal, where the historical Buddha was born at Lumbini in around 563 B.C. At dusk, pilgrims — many of them Tibetan — climb up to Swayambhunath, the stupa with the ever-watchful eyes which gaze from a hill west of the city, to turn the prayer-wheels, light hundreds of butter lamps and recite passages from the scriptures.

Right in the heart of the city lies Durbar Square, surrounded by old temples and royal buildings such as the Hanuman Dhoka Palace, but also a busy marketplace. Multifarious stalls offer statuettes of Buddha, masks, bracelets, Tibetan jewellery, musical instruments, cloth bags, articles of clothing, etc. I traded several garments I no longer needed for a large quantity of local souvenirs.

Pigeons flutter over the square in their thousands and cows lie down anywhere they please, even in the middle of the road, forcing vehicles to make cautious detours around them. Strange to my urban eyes, but nothing out of the ordinary for the inhabitants of Nepal where, like India, cows are sacred because of the association with Shiva's mount, the bull Nandi. Cattle in general appear to have it easy here. However, you do see yak and buffalo meat on the menu of some Kathmandu restaurants.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

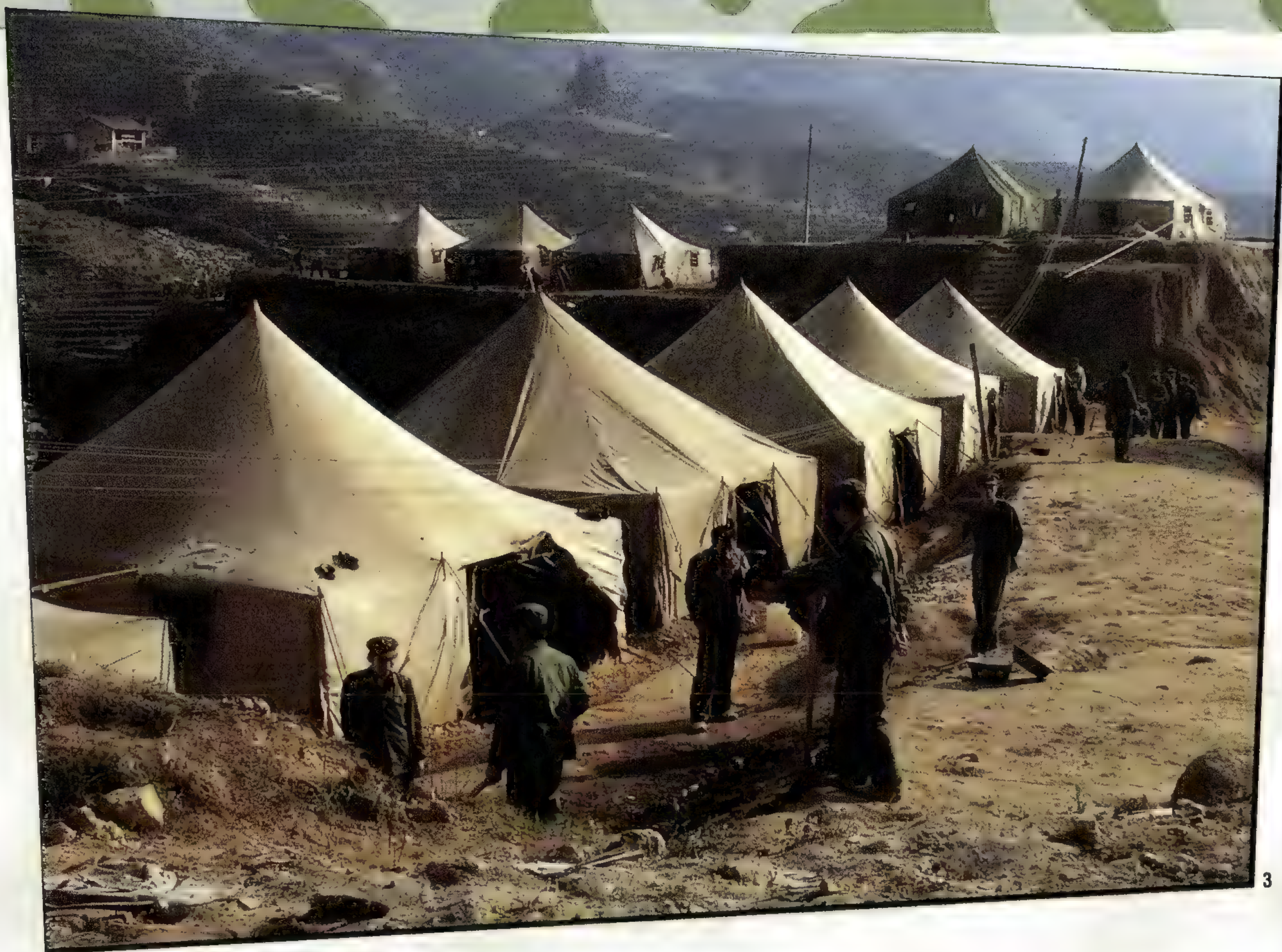
The Friendship Bridge (1, by Chan Kin Pong). Cattle are considered sacred by Hindus (3). A barber's shop in the Nepalese capital offers scalp massage as well as haircuts (2) while, in Thamel, ethnic handicrafts make fine souvenirs (4).



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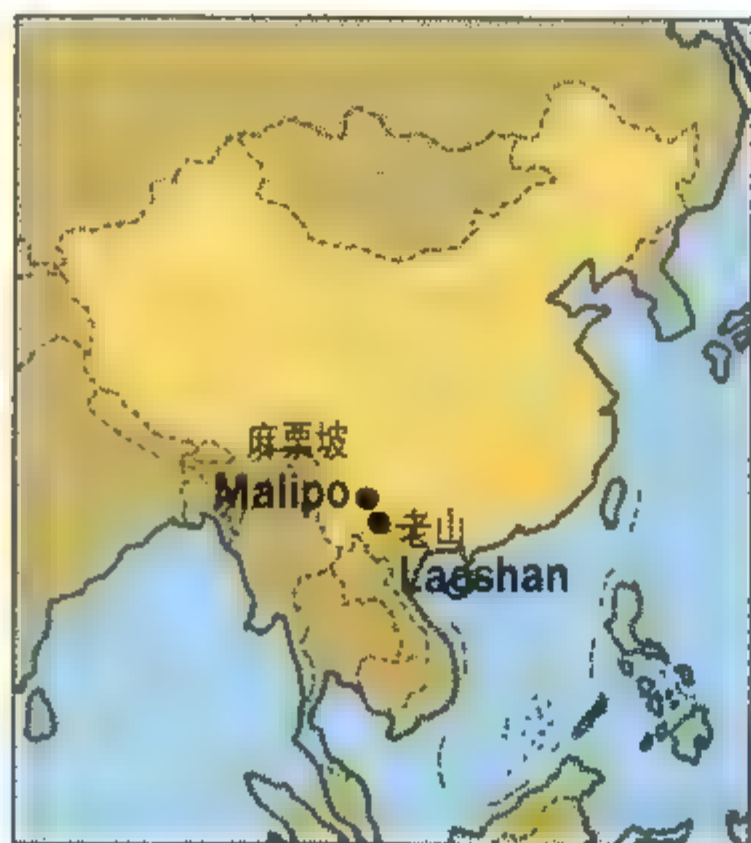
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▷ BORDER CROSSINGS SPECIAL ◁

Laoshan in Time of War

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY PENG ZHENGE



In 1979, fighting erupted at Mount Laoshan on the Sino-Vietnamese border in Yunnan Province. The author, now a member of our staff, went there as a correspondent three years ago. His memories and photographs of that time form an interesting record of an inaccessible (to foreigners) but now peaceful place.

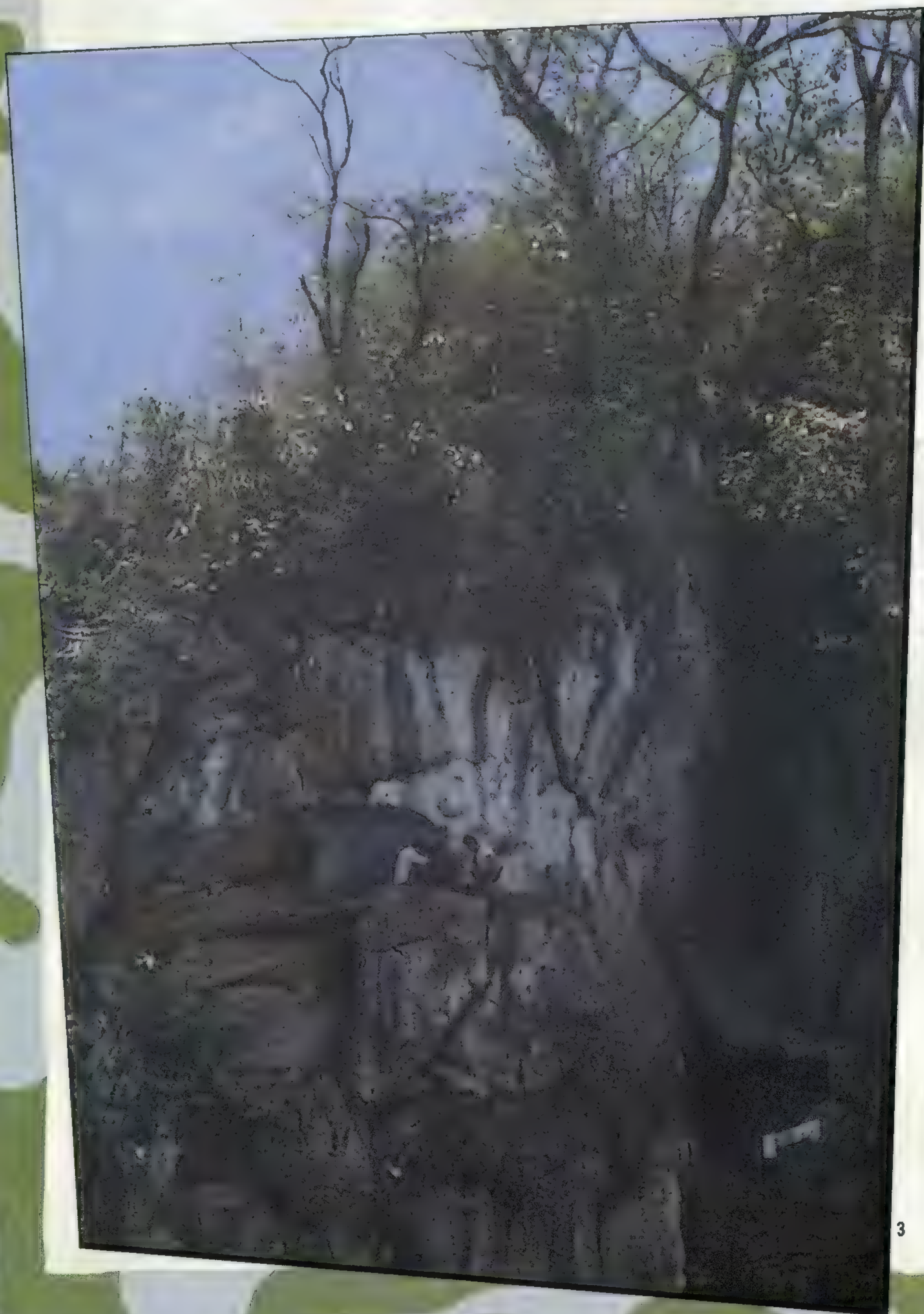
The view from a trench atop Mount Laoshan (1), where scarred hills tell the story of war (2). The camp starts to stir at first light (3).



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Mount Laoshan in southeastern Yunnan became famous overnight in 1979. But, since few people in China had heard about it at that time, it seemed a place of mystery. In 1987, I was assigned to report back on life at the front.

My reporter colleagues and I set off from Kunming by bus and drove south. We spent the night at Wenshan and arrived at the county town of Malipo near the border the following noon. We then turned east and crossed a mountain ridge from which, amidst the thunder of the not-so-distant bombardment, we got our first look at Mount Laoshan.

Our bus moved down the winding road erratically, as it seemed to me at the time, now slowly; now indulging in a sharp burst of speed. I later learned that the driver was doing this deliberately in order to make it more difficult for the enemy gunners to pick us up. Finally, we reached the camp in the valley where the troops were billeted.

It was almost dusk. Soldiers, men and women, were strolling along the sandy riverside in threes and fours. They knew at what times the camp was likely to be bombarded and where they could take cover if necessary.

That night we stayed in a simple prefabricated hostel; a table, two chairs and four hard beds with carefully folded bedding were the sum contents of each room. As we were regarding our accommodation, the sound of a guitar and a girl's voice singing came from somewhere near at hand.

Early the next morning we climbed to

the highest point of Mount Laoshan, from where we could see the mountains of Vietnam. The hill opposite us was scarred and gouged; we were told it had been the scene of heavy fighting and many heroic deeds.

As the sun rose and the morning mist dispersed, I was able to spot soldiers patrolling behind the camouflage netting. We visited a shelter of the type known as *maerdong*, 'cat's-ear cave', which was certainly narrow enough inside to merit its name.

Next on our programme was a meeting with the nursing staff at the front. Even in this place, the nurses had managed to retain a feminine atmosphere in their quarters. The door of one hut was pasted with a couplet reading: 'Eighteen to twenty, we are in our prime. A year or two, we are passing our youth at Laoshan.' We stopped to comment on it. The three nurses sitting at the door stood up and generously invited us in. Their hut was very cramped. Each one had arranged personal things beside her pillow: beloved toys, bunches of wild flowers, photos of filmstars.... The most



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Chess is a favoured way of passing the time, whether in a bunker (1) or exposed on a cliffside outside a maerdong (3)! The nurses (2) and a corner of their hut (4). Camouflage netting creates an eerie atmosphere (5).



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A front-line town adapts to the times (1). The war cemetery (2) at Malipo, and its busy market (3). Wenshan is the scene of nightly ballroom dancing (4) as well as a thriving night market (5).



favoured filmstars seemed to be Liu Xiaoqing, Pan Hong and the Japanese actress Yamakuchi Momoe. Not a man among them!

As we were chatting, the guns started up again. Having now been there for a couple of days, I was beginning to get a feel for the rhythm of the fighting. Dusk and night-time were the tensest times. At the actual front, which we were not permitted to approach, there were reportedly only some five metres separating the two sides.

We left Mount Laoshan and went to visit a war cemetery on a slope outside Malipo. It contained more than a thousand tombs, each stone tablet carved with the name and dates of birth and death of the deceased and inlaid with a ceramic portrait. They were almost all youngsters born in the '60s.

As we were walking about we spotted two colourfully dressed girls placing wine, cakes and flowers before a tomb, but they did not kowtow (as would normally be the case with relatives). It turned out that they had come all the way from Sichuan to pay their respects to a close neighbour from their village. A peal of wailing wafted across

to us. An elderly woman stood mourning before another tomb, her husband beside her. Their only son lay buried there.

The day we visited Malipo happened to be market day. The county town was full of people, both Han Chinese and other ethnic groups. Since I needed to send a letter, I went to find the post office, which was full of soldiers doing the same.

At the end of the street a colourful but simple wooden house caught my eye — it was a privately run hair salon. A number of local girls were sitting against the wall awaiting their turn to have their hair permed. I had hardly expected people to be thinking about their appearance at such a tense and troubled period. But I was wrong! In fact, when you consider it, it may even be true that everybody is more aware than usual of the value of life and its pleasures under such circumstances. One revealing sign of the times was that the pictures of ancient warriors which traditionally serve as door gods had been replaced on some of the houses by images of soldiers of the People's Liberation Army in heroic poses.

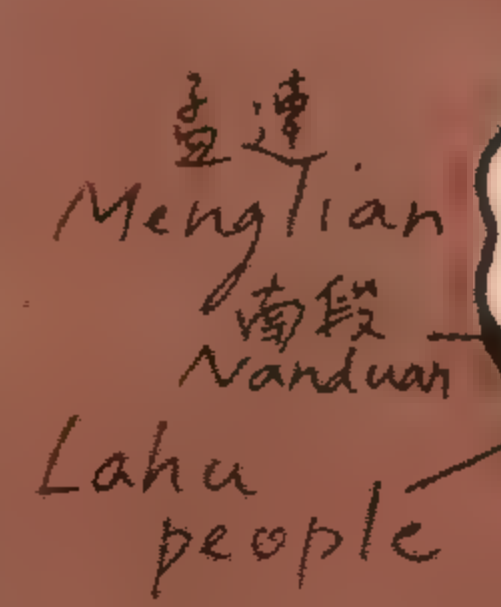
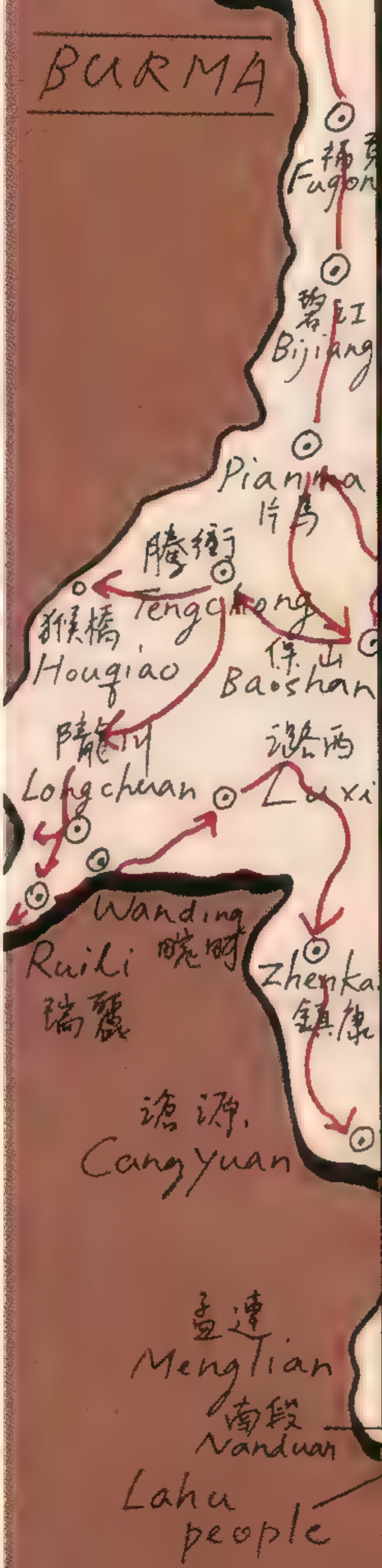
We returned to Wenshan. After supper, we went out for a walk in the evening air. Astonishingly, this small town only a few dozen kilometres from the war zone turned out to have a vibrant nightlife. People were still milling around in the streets, where there were stalls selling clothes, snacks, and so on. Some of the old folks were ensconced in the teahouse singing local opera, accompanying themselves on their own instruments: cymbals, drum and fiddle.

But the liveliest place was the open-air dance floor at Wenshan's Cultural Palace. People of all ages danced merrily as music

poured out from the loudspeakers. The young women were decked out in their finest, as were their male counterparts. However, they seemed to move rather awkwardly, looking constantly to left and right. At first I thought they were just a bit shy but, after watching for a while, I realized that they were actually imitating the movements of the older people on the dance floor. Ballroom dancing had been banned for many years and it had only recently been reintroduced in this town. The younger ones were just beginning to get the hang of a social skill at which their elders had once been and — as far as I could see — still were dab hands. Even in a war zone, life goes on.

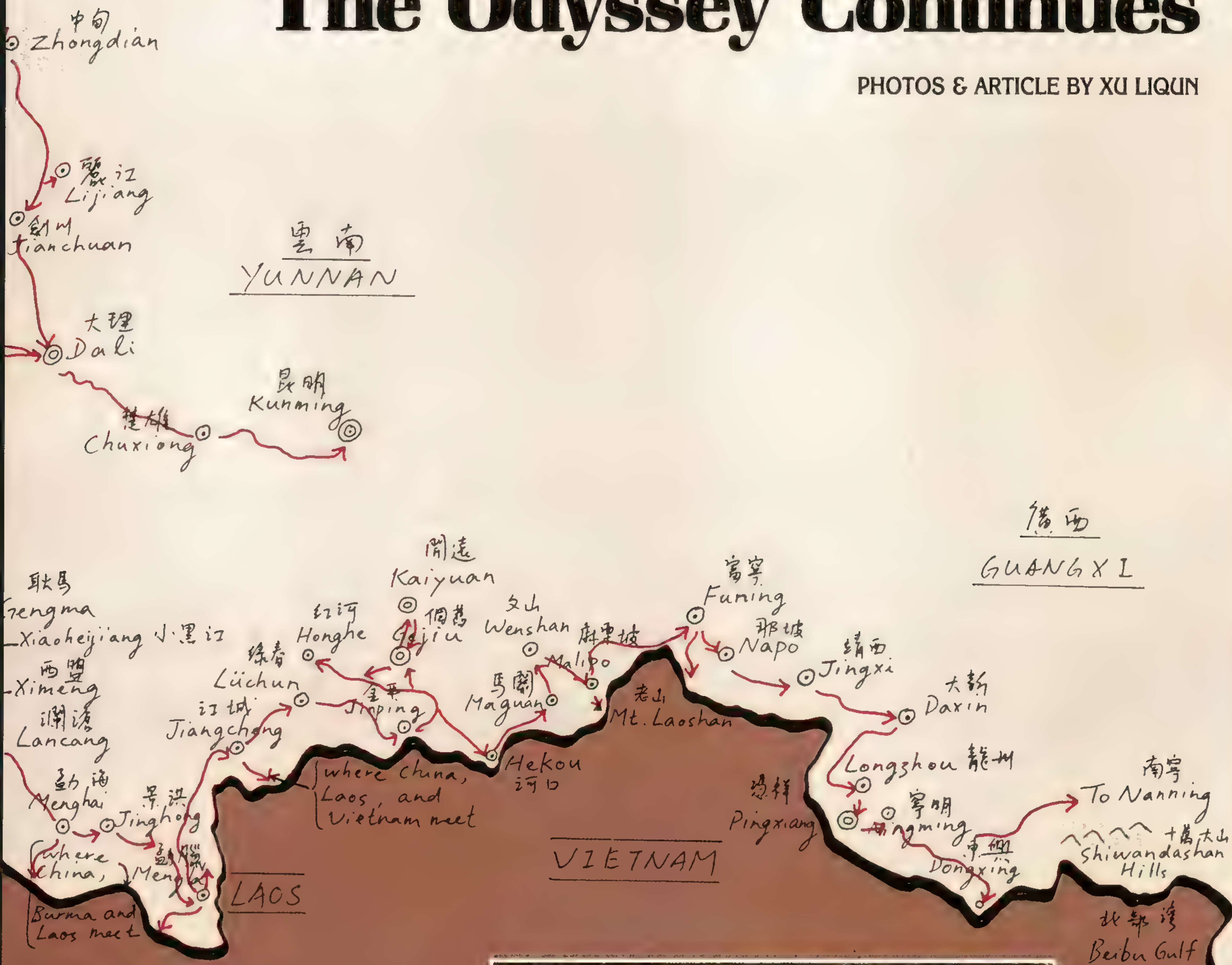
Translated by Wang Mingjie





By Motorbike Along China's Borders — The Odyssey Continues

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XU LIQUN



In CHINA TOURISM no. 109, we reported the extraordinary solo project being undertaken since 1986 by the photographer Xu Liqun: his intention is to circumambulate all of China's borders and coasts by motorbike. In that first report, we followed him from Heilongjiang in China's northeast right round the northern borders in an anti-clockwise direction as far as eastern Tibet. After several months' rest, he took up his journey again; this is his story to date....

The Nujiang Gorge far upstream at Baxoi (1), and overcoming landslips and flooding on the road from Bomi (2), both in southeastern Tibet.





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Having reached Mêdog in southeastern Tibet on November 19 1988, I wrapped up the second phase of my 'ten-thousand *li* march along the border' and flew to Beijing, where I took a good, long rest to recharge my batteries. I returned to Lhasa in the latter part of April the following year to collect my motorbike — which I had left in Lhasa — and continue my journey. My plan was to ride along China's southwestern land borders until I hit the sea at the Beibu Gulf (Gulf of Tongking) in Guangxi Province.

From Lhasa to the Gyaca Pass

My motorbike bumped along the twisting mountain road as I headed for Lhozhag in southern Tibet near the border with Bhutan. I was filled with inexpressible happiness as I made my way up and down the mountain slopes in the warm sunshine of the high plateau.

The Sino-Bhutanese border follows the line of the mighty Himalayan Mountains, which explains the relatively little contact between the two sides. In the early twentieth century Zhao Erfeng (?-1911), Qing-dynasty minister for border affairs with regard to Sichuan and Yunnan, stationed troops in southern Tibet and built up a strong border defence network through painstaking efforts. You can still see the remains of his blockhouses and fortresses along the valley of the River Lhozhag today.

At the same time nearby Lakang gradually developed into a trading centre between Tibet and Bhutan. Around the time of the Tibetan New Year, merchants from as far away as Lhasa, Bhutan, even Sikkim and Nepal, come to Lakang with piles of goods on horseback or carried by porters and do a brisk trade.

When I arrived in Lakang, there were no signs of trade but I was most cordially received by a Tibetan who had just returned from Bhutan. The minute I entered his house, I was offered a bottle of beer. I was very surprised, to put it mildly, as I had not seen any bottled beer since leaving Lhasa. I tried to decline, thanking my host for his hospitality, but I couldn't insist on refusing without upsetting him, and I eventually drank the rare treat with the greatest of pleasure.

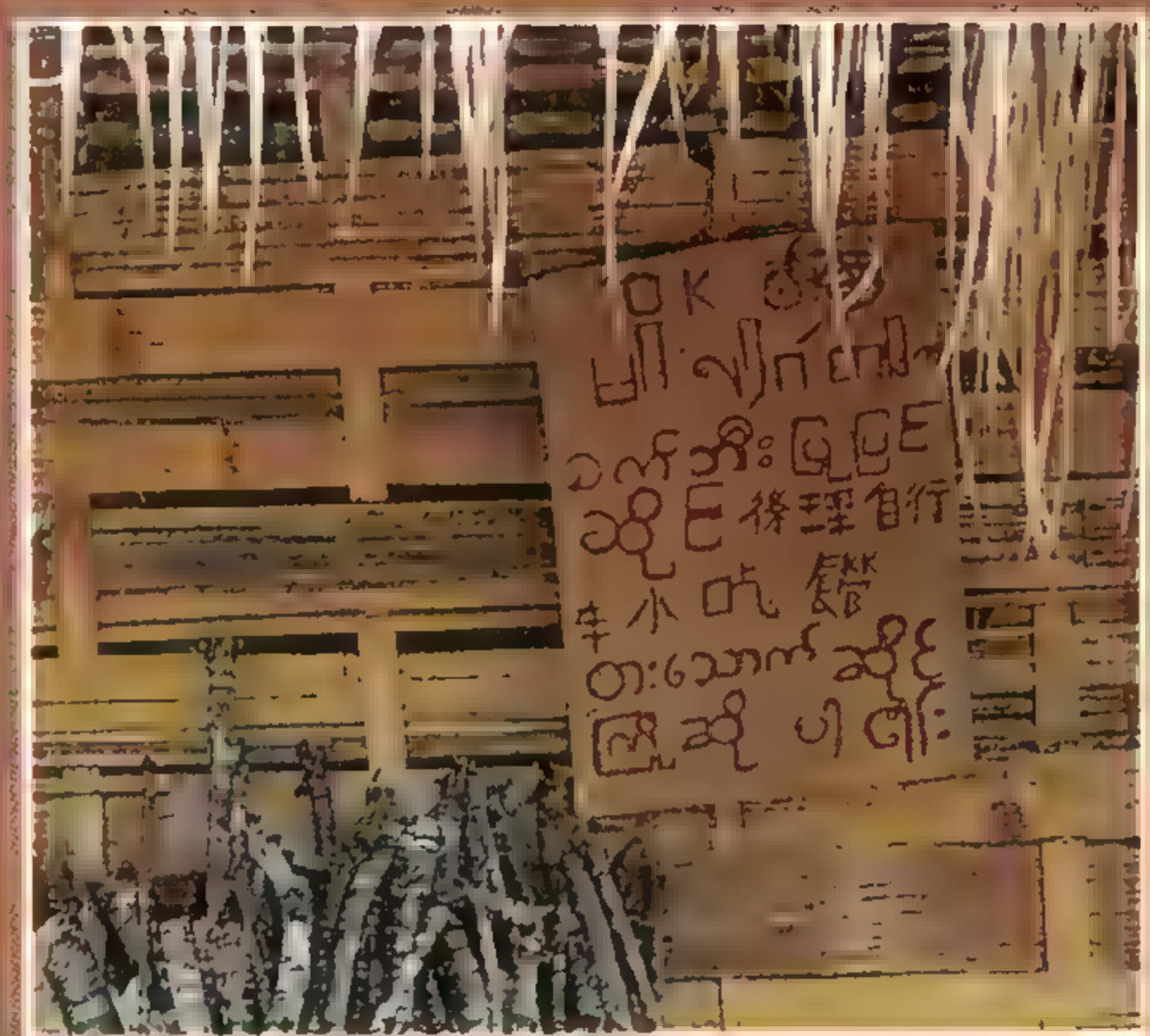
The hamlet of Shengeri is just a stone's throw from the Sino-Bhutanese border. It took me a day to get there on foot. The place is inhabited by five Tibetan families who make a living by breeding cattle and sheep and cultivating *qingke* (highland barley). At the time I was there, azaleas were in bloom all over the mountainsides. So, when I left, I picked some blossoms and left one on the door of each house by way of farewell.

When I arrived in Cona, a county town further southeast, close to the Sino-Indian border, it was raining and the temperature had dropped so much that I had to put on my warm down jacket. I was told that there are only forty-nine frost-free days a year here. You hardly see the sun once the rainy season sets in during the latter part of May and, by the end of October, the snow begins and the mountain passes are effectively sealed off. Yet, despite its grim climate, Cona is rich in terrestrial heat, with an extensive network of pipes linked to the hot springs. All you have to do is turn on the tap and you have hot water, so local residents enjoy the luxury of being able to take a hot bath every day. Outside the county town hot springs are dotted all over the river valley and the swamplands, and sheep and cattle graze in meadows blanketed by rising steam.

Driving back up north to the River Yarlung Zangbo, I reached Qusum at the foot of the Gyaca Pass. Surveying the heights up ahead, I realized I needed to stop for a rest. By a small stream I made a fire and cooked a pot of congee (rice porridge) plus a piece of beef. With renewed energy, I started off up the pass. It was raining again and my motorbike seemed to float amidst clouds as I rode along the zigzagging mountain road. The more height I gained, the wetter and colder it became. It seemed winter had returned after a short spell of spring. The small-leaved azalea shrubs on both sides of the highway were shrivelled with the cold.



Still in Tibet: layer upon layer of snow peaks at Lhozhag (1), a welcome touch of green at nearly 4,000 metres at Bamda near Baxoi (2), and a Lhoba couple in Mainling County (3). Layingjie in southwestern Yunnan, right on the border with Burma, is home to many Burmese (4).





When I arrived at the top of the pass, it was snowing heavily and visibility was poor. It took me some time to locate a wooden sign which told me that I had reached 5,120 metres above sea-level. I looked at my mileage indicator and calculated that I had just travelled forty-two kilometres to climb the pass.

Once I was over the mountain, the weather cleared up. Red flowers and green leaves greeted me at the foot on the other side, reminding me that it was indeed spring. The heads of wheat in the fields were swelling already — signs of a good harvest to come — as I entered the county town of Gyaca.

Encounters with the Lhoba and Drung

The word Lhoba in the Tibetan language literally means 'southerners' and is the name given to a group of people living in south-eastern Tibet. Centred in the counties of Mainling, Zayü, Nangxian, Mêdog and Lhünzê, they number only just over two thousand.

I paid a visit to an 82-year-old Lhoba man in a village in Mainling County. Hardly had we finished exchanging courtesies than his wife returned after a day's work in the fields. On seeing a guest, she at once put aside the grass she was carrying in a basket on her back and offered me a cup of the local beer made from *qingke*. She then busied herself boiling eggs. It is the custom of the Lhoba

nationality to treat their guests to eggs dipped in a salty chilli sauce. We ate the eggs and listened as my elderly host related an exciting Himalayan hunting story through an interpreter.

When I arrived at Bomi, I was told that a cataclysmic landslide had occurred about eighty kilometres further on. A mass of rocks and sand had rushed down the mountainside, uprooting trees and smashing into the highway, while the River Aiguo had overflowed its banks. A large section of road had been blocked, washed away or otherwise severely damaged.

There was no point in wasting time waiting for repairs to be carried out — I couldn't wait forever. Since it was on the southern route of the Tibet-Sichuan Highway, this landslide was a grave inconvenience to through traffic. A convoy of trucks prepared to return to Lhasa, six hundred kilometres away to the west. But there could be no such retreat for me. I would have had to drive via Xining in Qinghai, Lanzhou in Gansu and Chengdu in Sichuan in a detour of six thousand kilometres in order to bypass just thirty-two kilometres of highway affected by the landslide. (*Editor's note: The author seems to have forgotten the possibility of taking the northern route of the highway, via Lhasa, Qamdo, Dêge and Chengdu.*)

I made up my mind to attempt to scramble through the bad bits somehow; after all, I had an easily manoeuvrable motorbike, not a great unwieldy truck.

So, early the following morning, I hired eight husky Tibetans to help me on my way. Having successfully overcome several obstacles, we came to a stretch of highway which was totally inundated. Without hesitation, everyone jumped into the water. We unloaded the baggage and carried it across to the opposite side. Then, using ropes, four men pulled and four others pushed while I sat on the bike and tried to start the engine for extra impetus. I only managed to get some ten metres before coming to a stop, so I jumped off and joined the others to push the motorbike through water which came up to our hips. Only our concerted efforts kept us going forward. After getting through the deep water, we had to pull the heavy bike up a slippery ice-covered slope. It took us ten long hours to get through the danger zone, but we did it!

Quiet Lake Rawu lay ahead. I continued to Markam where I turned south and took the road to Dêqên, saying goodbye to Tibet on a bridge where a sign told me that I was just entering Yunnan Province.

Ever mindful of my mission to trace the line of the borders as closely as possible, I wanted to see the starting point of the Sino-Burmese border. I also wanted to visit the Drung, a nationality living in the remote northwest of Yunnan. So I turned north up the Nujiang Gorge to get to the Gongshan Drung and Nu Autonomous County.



The casual Sino-Burmese border at Layingjie (1), and money-changing on the street in Ruili (2). The design of the Va houses at Cangyuan is dictated by weather conditions (3), while a banana-leaf cape does duty as a raincoat for a Dêrnang woman in the same area (4). An intimate service performed by one family member for another in Wengding, again in Cangyuan (5).





The Drungjiang Valley is not accessible by road. It took me two days to travel on foot along the mountain track through rough terrain. I came at last to Bapo, the main settlement of the Drung, where I met some Burmese people making purchases in the local stores. They had entered China via a village called Kongdang.

Consumed by curiosity, I decided to see Kongdang for myself. It took me several hours on yet another mountain path and I was caught in drizzle. The village turned out to be located halfway up a mountainside, shrouded in haze, a beautiful sight. Villagers were returning to their homes in twos and threes carrying edible wild herbs, bundles of firewood, and a type of flat fish which is native to the River Drungjiang. Despite the proximity of the border, however, there were no Burmese. I was most disappointed.

The evening before my departure, the villagers arranged a celebration in my honour, culminating in their Ox Dance. I had to sleep under the stars and travel three more days in the wilderness before I got back to Gongshan (and my bike). Having rested for a day, I rode on to Liuku at the southern end of the Nujiang Gorge, from where I turned east to Dali.

Into Southern Yunnan

The no. 4 border mark on the Sino-Burmese border stands near the bridge over the River Binlang in the village of Houqiao in

Guyong, Tengchong County. No more than one metre high and thirty centimetres wide, the cement marker has cracked, revealing a pebble heart. An open space leads to a narrow path where Chinese and Burmese residents of the border region exchange goods. There is a row of scattered bamboo huts on the Burmese side.

As I stood there, a man wearing a sarong walked out from one hut with two children and drove a flock of sheep across the border into China before disappearing slowly into the woods. Nobody jumped out to stop them! It seems that these local border crossings have been common practice since the 1960s — on both sides. Local people told me that on market day Lisu and other people come over on their walking tractors to go shopping in Tengchong. Even with their national costumes, it is difficult to tell if they are Chinese or Burmese citizens.

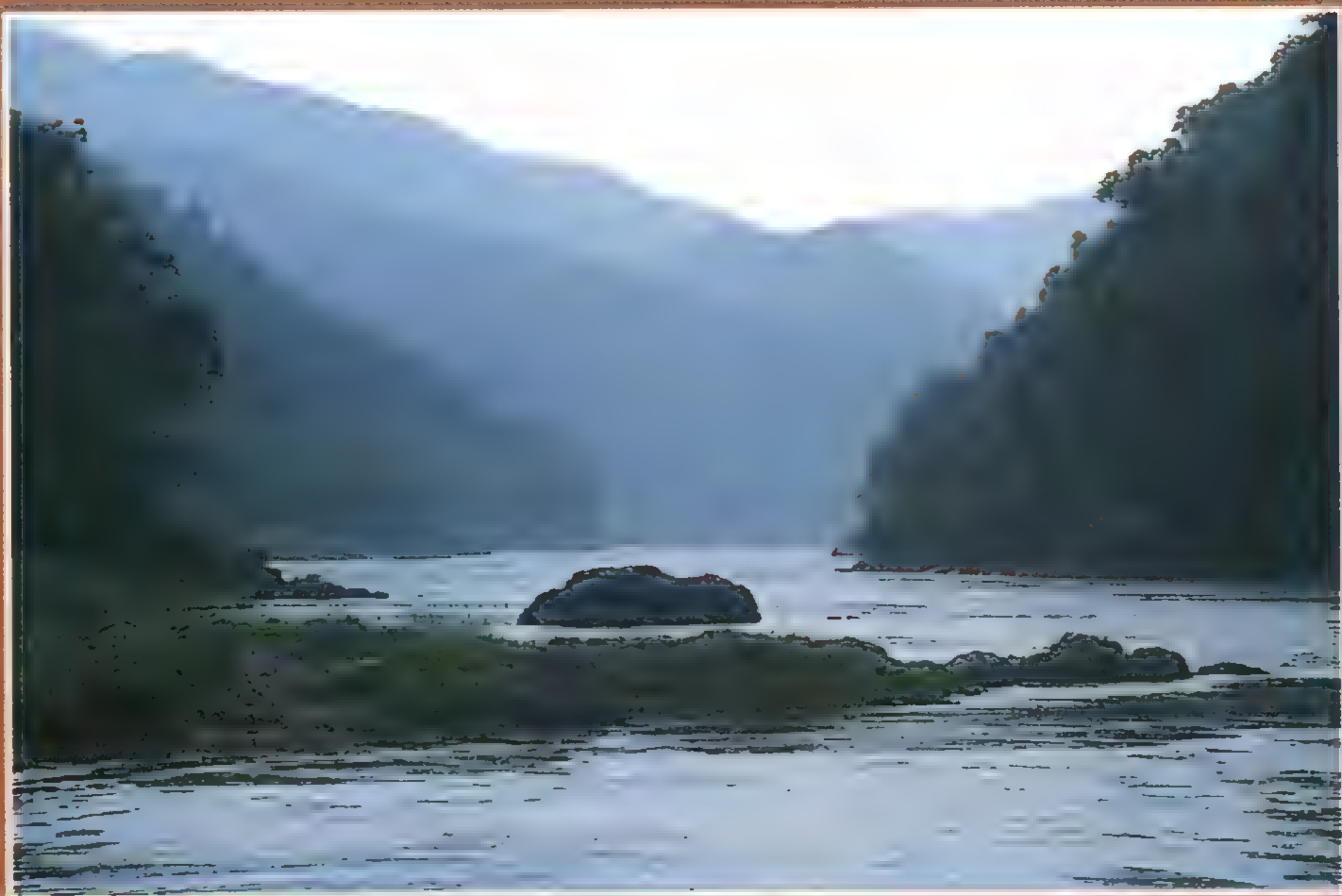
I travelled south to Zhangfeng in Longchuan County. There I was taken to the border which runs past the foot of a big tree thick with foliage. To the west, in Burma, lies a settlement called Yangrenjie (literally 'Foreigners Street'), to the east the Chinese village of Layingjie.

Records reveal that in the mid-nineteenth century when the British occupied Burma,

foreign soldiers pitched their tents in this small village, then inhabited by ten households of the Jingpo nationality — hence the name. About ninety percent of the residents of Yangrenjie have now moved across the border to Layingjie which is quite a bustling community, with small houses of bamboo and wood on both sides of the street. But the Burmese return frequently to keep an eye on their belongings and clear up their houses. Some of them go backwards and forwards almost every day, living in China but tilling their fields in Burma, I was told.

During my travels in Tibet I had noticed some excellent knives engraved with the name 'Husa', which were said to be from somewhere in Yunnan although I could not find the placename on the map. However, quite by chance, while I was in Longchuan I came across a small town of the right name. To my great satisfaction, I was even able to buy three of the knives from an elderly Achang man. As I watched him grinding a knife over the fire in his modest workshop, he told me that, in 1958, when he was in Burma, the Burmese soldiers very much appreciated the weapons he made. One soldier wanted to employ him in order to learn the secrets of his trade, but the Achang man refused and returned to China. However, he has kept up his business of making swords, daggers and knives. He told me that almost every Achang male becomes a swordsmith when he is twenty or so.

I continued south to Ruili and the river of the same name. A boat full of passengers crossed from the Burmese to the Chinese



The Lahu say their god came down to bless them through this sacred gateway (1), while the Bulang display their martial spirit in their dances (2). China, Burma and Laos meet in Mengla County (3); the rock in the river marks where the Lancang becomes the Mekong — to the left lies Laos, to the right Burma (4).



bank, sounding its horn as it advanced. The demarcation line between the two countries is rather complicated at this point, passing through rice fields and between houses. If you take the slightest wrong turning, you are likely to find yourself on the other side of the border. Without the requisite stamps and papers!

Ruili is not a large town but it is a busy, prosperous place owing much to the thriving trade in jade imported from across the border. Business goes on into the night in its well-lit streets.

My next stop was Wanding, another border crossing point. At break of day, as soon as the customs post opens, Burmese people lose no time in crossing Wanding Bridge to trade in commodities of various descriptions.

After a night here I left for Luxi, capital of the Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture. I decided to spend a few days there to rest up after my exhausting motorbike journey thus far.

Having recovered somewhat, I drove on southeast into the area of the Awa Mountains, specifically into Cangyuan County. It was the rainy season and the twisting, turning road was horribly slippery. Then my front tyre burst. I was fortunately just in time to put on my brakes otherwise I would have plunged off the side of the road into the abyss ... and would probably not have been here to tell this tale!

Spare tyre in place, I continued down the road. There were many houses on either side. I entered one village, name unknown, which turned out to be a Va village consisting of bamboo buildings like large straw hats. The steeply pitched roofs of thatch and bamboo came down so low that you could hardly see any walls, presumably as a result of the massive rainfall in the region. Straw sections could be propped up by fine bamboo poles on the roof to act as windows. There were some children in black skullcaps looking out of one such aperture, but they vanished when they saw my camera lens pointed at them.

Despite their head-hunting past (see CHINA TOURISM no. 100), the Va are a simple and honest people. The granaries built outside the village are never locked. Chickens, pigs, cows and dogs roam unimpeded through every corner of the village. At its heart stands a carved wooden totem pole where meetings and festivals are held and sacrifices made. The houses are all built facing this totem which is surrounded by a public gallery, a pavilion-like structure where children play, the elderly seek the cool shade and young men and women talk of love...

In one corner outside the village stood an old tree shading the cemetery. The Va dead

are usually wrapped in a bamboo 'shroud' and buried, their death being as simple and free of pretension as their life.

I was invited to eat with the village headman. His wife came back from the fields rather late, carrying a basket of grass for her pigs. She was soon busy cooking. Afterwards she retired to eat with her children by the side of the fire while I sat with her husband at the table. I invited her to join us, but the headman stopped this with a gesture. Va etiquette demands that the guest eat separately with the head of the household.

It is about three hundred kilometres from Cangyuan to Lancang, a day's journey under normal conditions. But a large section of the road here was destroyed during the earthquake of 1988 which had its epicentre between the county towns of Gengma and Lancang, and it was still under repair. This part of my journey developed into another forced march although, from my experience in Tibet, I now knew it was better to keep going at all costs.

The forty-kilometre stretch between Tuanjie and Xiaoheijiang in Cangyuan County was full of holes. The surface was muddy and my bike floundered around on the treacherous surface, frequently getting stuck. It was difficult to make progress but I really wanted to reach Xiaoheijiang before dark. Once I got that far, I would be on a trunk road, and it would be an easy matter to reach Lancang. Eventually stuck tight in the mud, I had to contain my impatience and just sit there on my motorbike, hoping for assistance. In the end, passing farmers took pity



Tree roots rarely grow this big, even in the forests of Xishuangbanna (1). Further east, Yao women from Jinping (2) and Yi women from Majie (4 and 5) display their finery. The Hani people of Honghe build their villages on south-facing slopes to catch the sun (3).





1



2



on me and helped me to pull my vehicle out of the quagmire, which took most of the day. It was midnight when I reached the checkpoint at Xiaoheijiang.

Easier Progress

The next morning it was a relief to drive off along the smooth, asphalt surface of the trunk road. I was aiming at Nanduan in Menglian County near the border. The indigenous people there are the Lahu, descendants of an ancient race. There are still 300,000 and more of them in Yunnan Province. At the entrance to one Lahu village I was greeted by a sacred gateway formed by four wooden boards darkened by the rain. On them were carved small idols, imparting a sense of awe. This was the entrance to a lofty Buddhist temple. A 95-year-old man met me. I couldn't understand a word he was saying, but I gathered — from the tone of his voice — that he was welcoming me. The Lahu were originally animists, but many were converted to Buddhism in the early eighteenth century when a monk came from Dali to preach Mahayana Buddhism. Nevertheless they have not fully abandoned their spirit worship; for many of them, the two sets of beliefs are combined.

The old monk took me to a community house where he himself had lived for many years. It was a long wooden building with linked thatched roofs. Several families shared the house, but they each had their own

separate cooking fire. In the evening they dispersed to different rooms to sleep. The head of the household was an old woman, and she had the final say in all domestic and family matters, I was told.

I met a member of another minority nationality further on in Lancang County, in Mangjing, a Bulang village — one Su Guorong. His younger brother performed a traditional sword dance for me on learning that I had come such a long way. He wore an embroidered turban, a white jacket and black trousers and performed first with a sword, then knives. His solo dance displayed power and vigour and revealed the martial spirit of the Bulang tribesmen.

It was just after the harvest, and grain and other produce were laid out in the sun on the terraces and drying areas of every household. I was told that there is a tea garden outside the village which is said to be the origin of the famous Pu'er tea.

From Lancang County I made a detour west to Ximeng, then retraced my steps to reach Xishuangbanna in Yunnan's southwestern corner. Between Menghai and Jinghong the highway became flatter and straighter as it crossed the plain, providing the best road conditions I and my motorbike had so far enjoyed.

The River Lancang flows peacefully past Jinghong, capital of Xishuangbanna. At this point the river has lost all the tempestuous nature of its upper reaches, when it cuts through the Hengduan Range. Having bought a ticket for a 'mini-cruise' on the S.S. *Xishuangbanna*, I left my bike behind at Jinghong and took off to see the sights along the river.

On the first day, the boat went upstream as far as the Xiaoganlan Dam in Simao County. There were dense tropical forests along the banks, but I didn't see any monkeys or elephants although they are still said to exist in the area. On the second day we turned back to Jinghong. The following day we continued downstream, arriving at the point where the Lancang becomes the Mekong, in other words, the point where China, Burma and Laos meet. On this soil — the soil of three nations — I stood for a while, savouring the moment.

Finally, on the fourth day, the S.S. *Xishuangbanna* put in at the small Dai village of Guanlei. Women and children boarded our vessel to sell fruit, wine, cigarettes and detergent powder. At nightfall the Dai villagers gathered on the banks to watch the television programme being broadcast on board. It was in Mandarin and the villagers could hardly be expected to understand it, but they viewed the programme with rapt attention anyway.

On my way to Mengla County in the most southerly tip of Yunnan I stopped off at a Dai village to stay for the night in a bamboo house, since it was already rather late. My host provided me with a thick, cotton-padded



Hekou's main street is always crowded with shoppers (2), but Mount Laoshan near Malipo is firmly off-limits (3). Craters at the Friendship Pass in Pingxiang, Guangxi, attest to a less than peaceful past (1). Like the Dai, the Zhuang of Ningming like to live near water (4).



1



2



3



4



quilt. In the middle of the night I had to go for a pee. Coming back from the latrine, I was highly amused to see a round hole cut in the floor just near the bed. So that's what you're supposed to do, I thought to myself. How convenient!

Proceeding north from Mengla, I passed through the Jiangcheng Hani and Yi Autonomous County, Lüchun County and Honghe before arriving in Jinping County.

One Hani village I visited was a mass of mushroom-like thatched houses which the local people call *fenghuolou*. As a rule they are three-storeyed. Farm implements and firewood are stored on the ground floor, where there is also a cowshed. The family's living quarters are on the first floor, while the top floor is the granary and storeroom for foodstuffs such as beans, melons, etc. The rooftop is used as a drying area. The Hani prefer to build their houses on south-facing hill slopes. In front of this village stretched field terraces shaped like the crescent moon. From the top of the hill I looked down over the strange shapes of the fields, some quite large, but the smallest only the size of a wash basin. It was a marvellous sight.

Another fascinating spectacle met my eyes when I entered a Yi village on the south bank of the Yuanjiang, alias the Honghe (Red River). Some girls were wearing a special 'cock's-comb' headdress which flashed like jewels. These cap-like hats are made of stiffened cloth on which are sewn more than

1,200 silver baubles said to be symbolic of good luck, happiness and well-being.

In general, Yi men do not pay much attention to their appearance but the women certainly make up for it. In this area, their dress is most elaborate. They wear a wide, loose tunic closing on the right and with sleeves, front and yoke embroidered in designs of gold, red, purple and green which are symmetrical with those on the wide trousers. The waistband was the most astonishing thing to my eyes. It ends in two large triangle shapes which are arranged to fall at the back. As its wearer walks along, the ends sway to left and right. I was told that Yi women have the skills to produce such complicated work because they start learning to sew and embroider at the age of five or six. It can take one or two years to turn out a complete set of clothes.

Sensitive Borderlands

It was midday when I rode down the main street in Hekou, centre of the Hekou Yao Autonomous County, on the Sino-Vietnamese border. I was at once surrounded by a group of curious locals and one man shouted out: 'He must be Vietnamese!' I later learned that many people from across the border come here to trade, so anything or

anybody out of the ordinary is assumed to be Vietnamese.

The River Nanxi joins the Honghe at Hekou and flows into Vietnam. There is a narrow tongue of land at their confluence. These two rivers form the national boundary at this point. Half of the Sino-Vietnamese Friendship Bridge over the Nanxi has been dismantled, but the scene on the 300-metre-wide Honghe is as busy as ever, with bamboo rafts and wooden boats shuttling to and fro. A Vietnamese national needs only pay one yuan at the checkpoint to obtain a permit to enter Hekou, and Hekou residents cross in the other direction just as freely.

I continued on through Maguan and Wenshan, arriving at Malipo further east along this border with Vietnam. I applied for permission to climb Mount Laoshan, the scene of bitter fighting in the border conflict which started in 1979. It was drizzling as I climbed the steep hills shrouded in thick clouds. I could hardly see anything, but I could sense the atmosphere of this closed border zone. I had almost reached the top when the drizzle stopped and the fog was blown away by the wind, allowing me glimpses of villagers threshing grain. The PLA soldiers guarding the peak were hospitable and invited me to share their meal. While I was in the kitchen, I noticed the cook hanging cabbages up in mid-air. Why? There are too many rats up here, I was told. Hanging the vegetables up is one way of stopping the rats from getting at them.

(Continued on page 142)



5

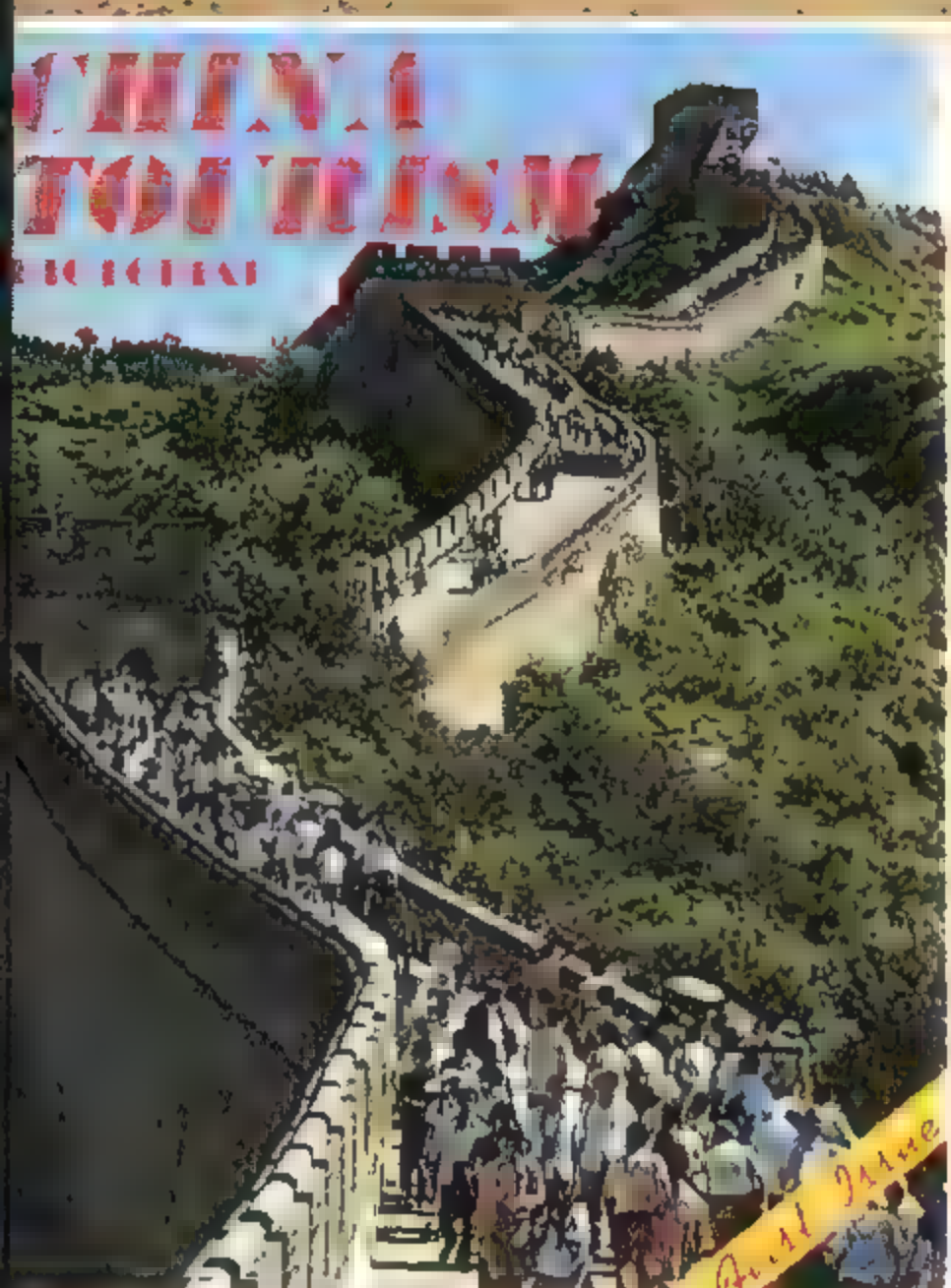


6

Blue Yao women (1) from the Shiwandashan Hills, where a masked civet is a farmer's pet (2). Dongxing at last (4), with roast ducks fresh from the oven (3) and an abundance of oysters and other seafood (5). Out in the Beibu Gulf, a church on Weizhou Island has the Ten Commandments displayed in a prominent position (6).

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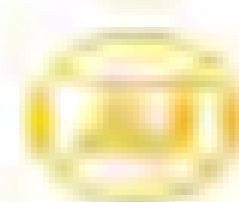
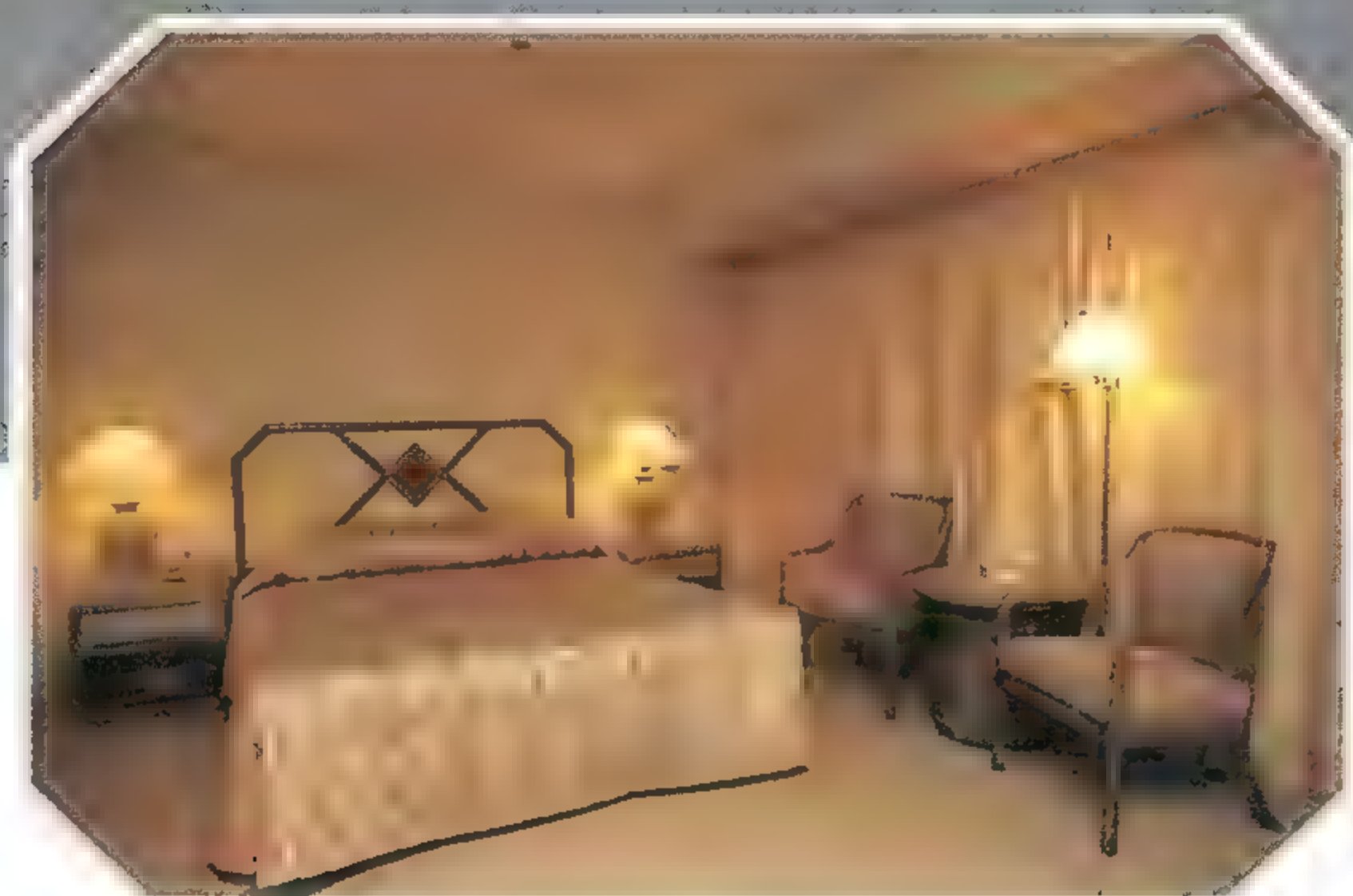
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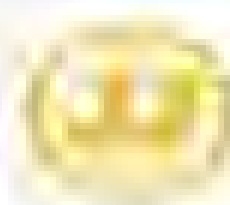
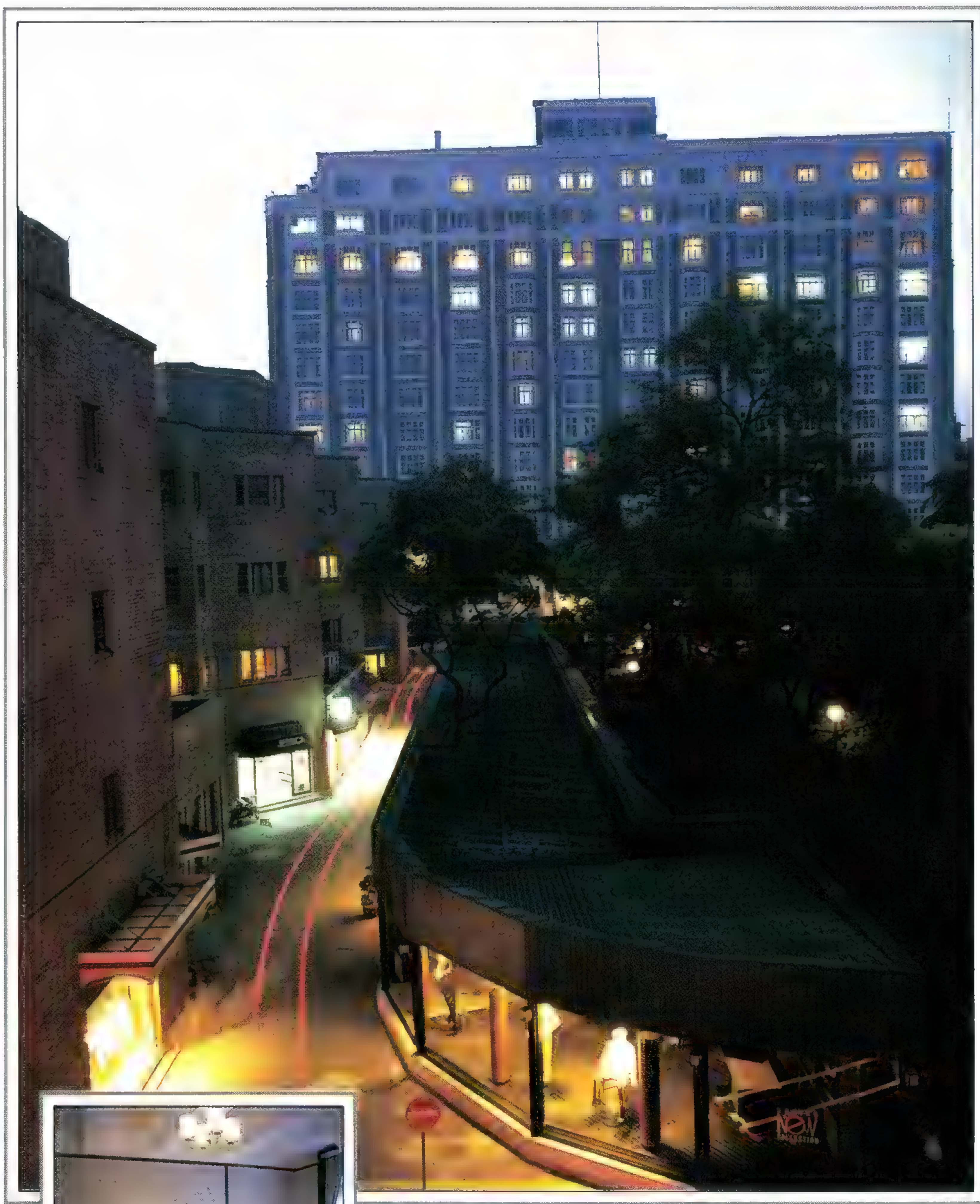




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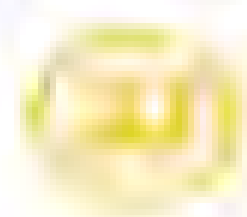
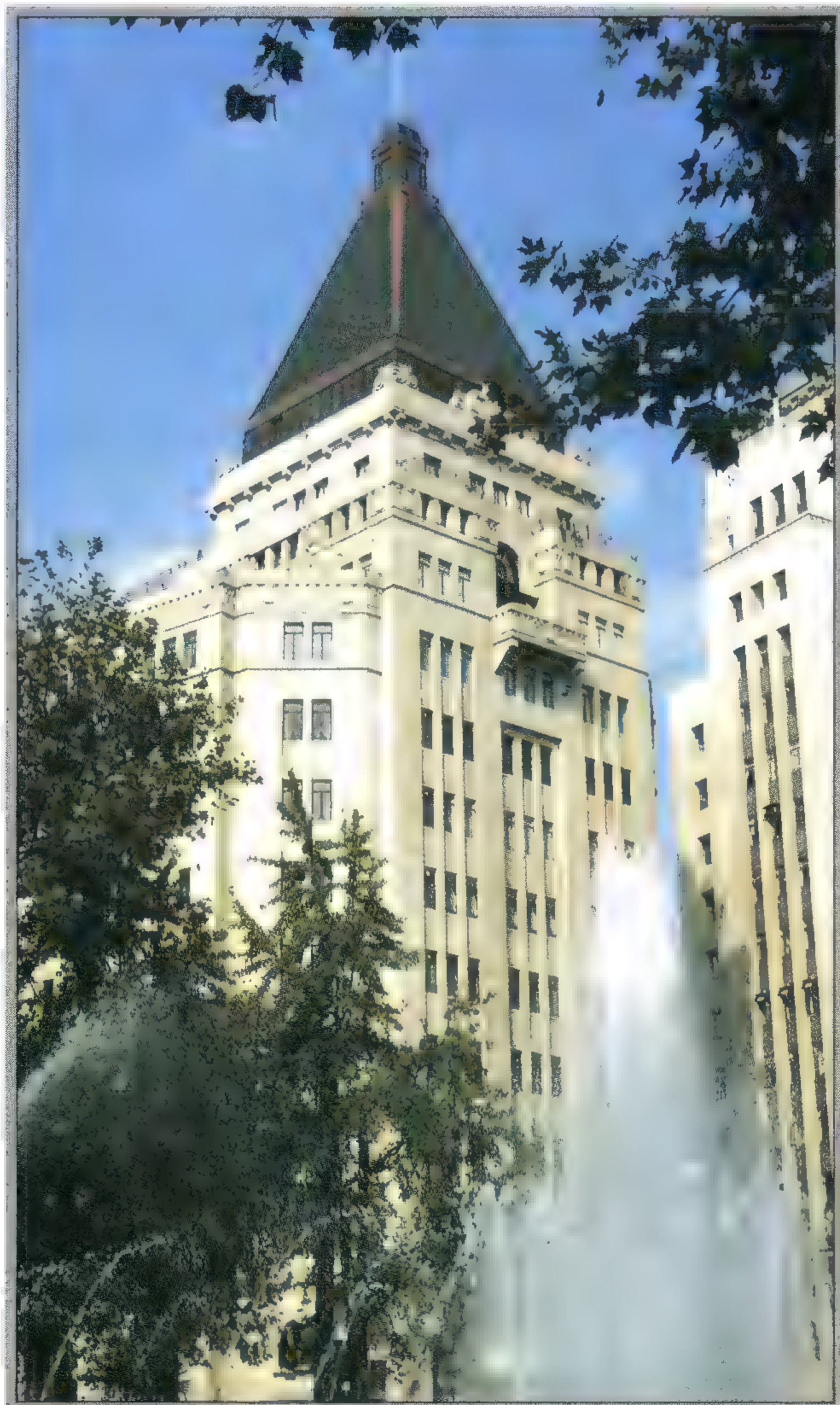
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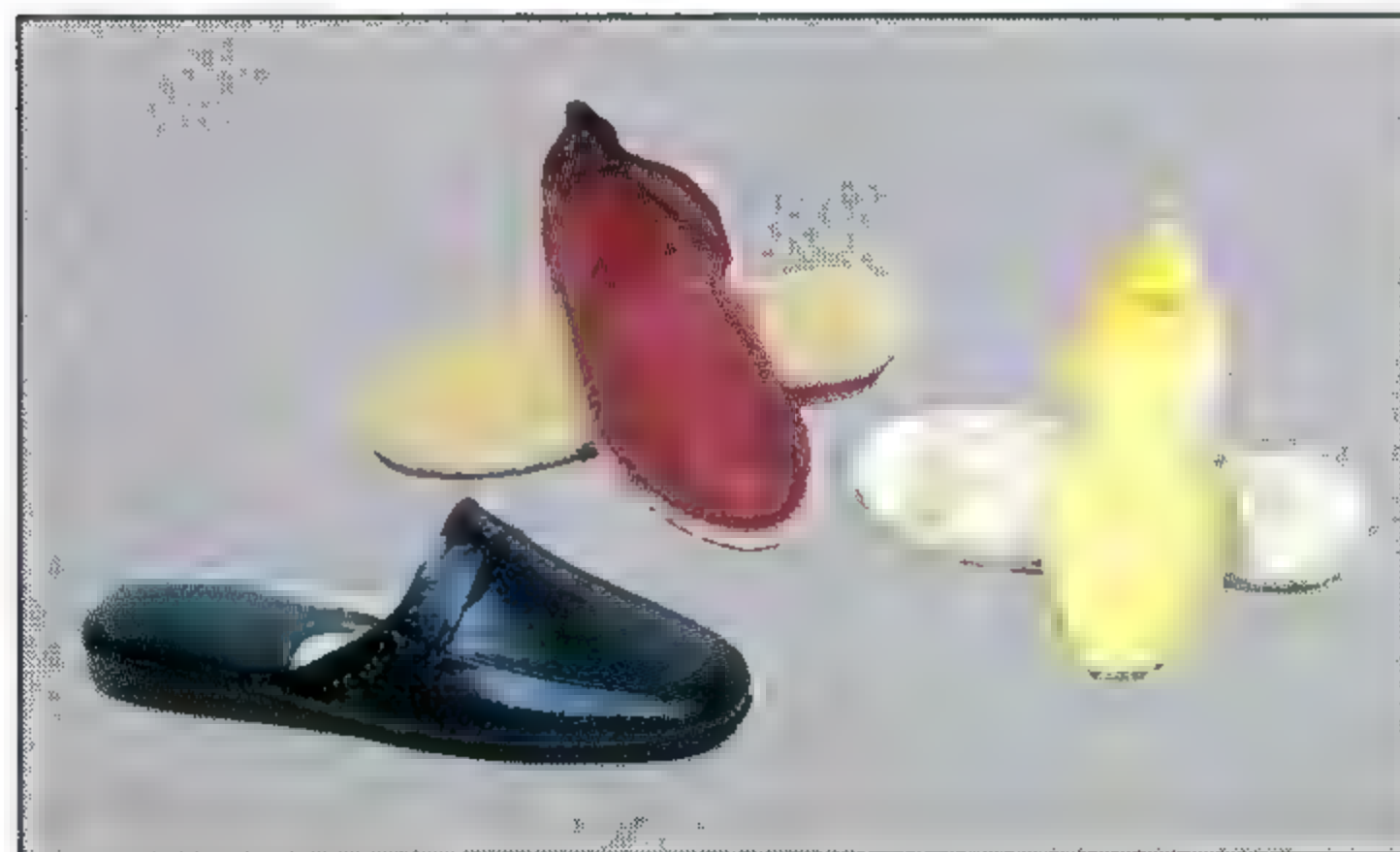
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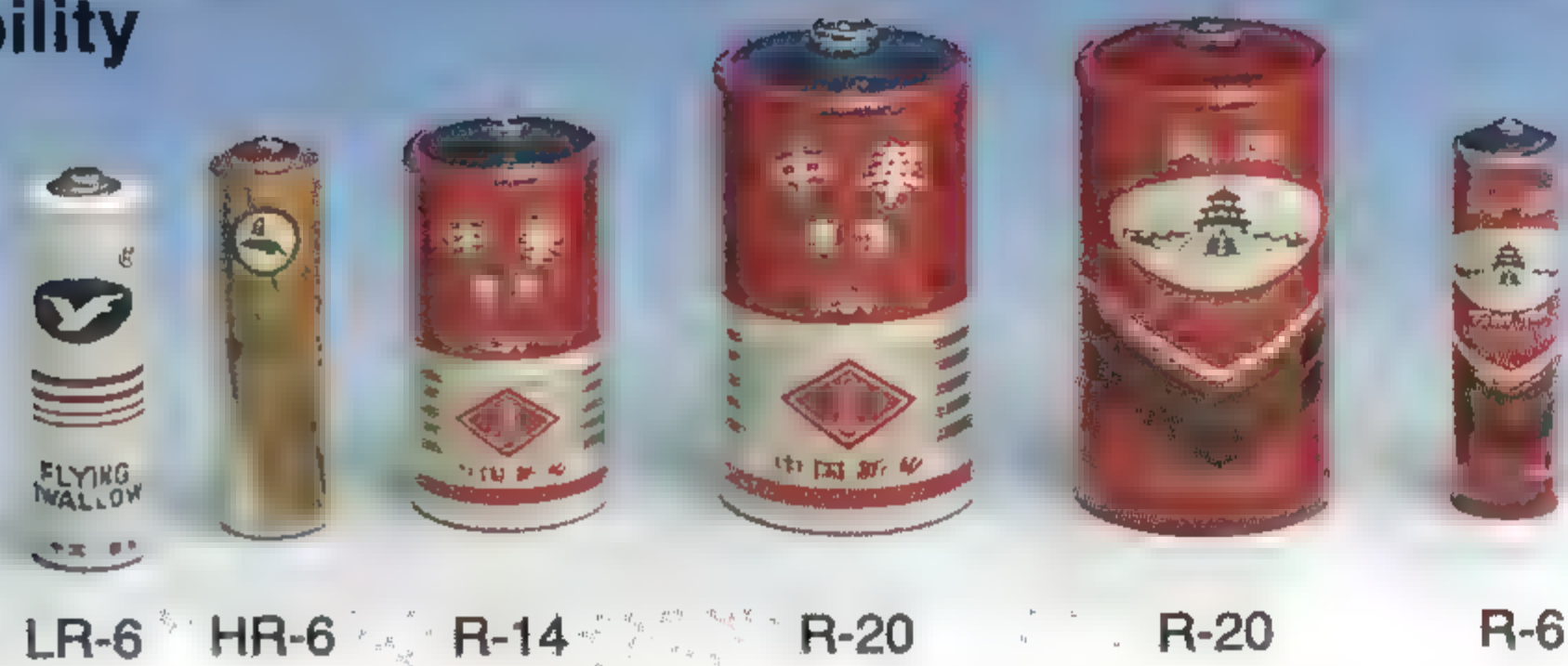
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	FT350	12 DOZEN	28/19	80x35x46
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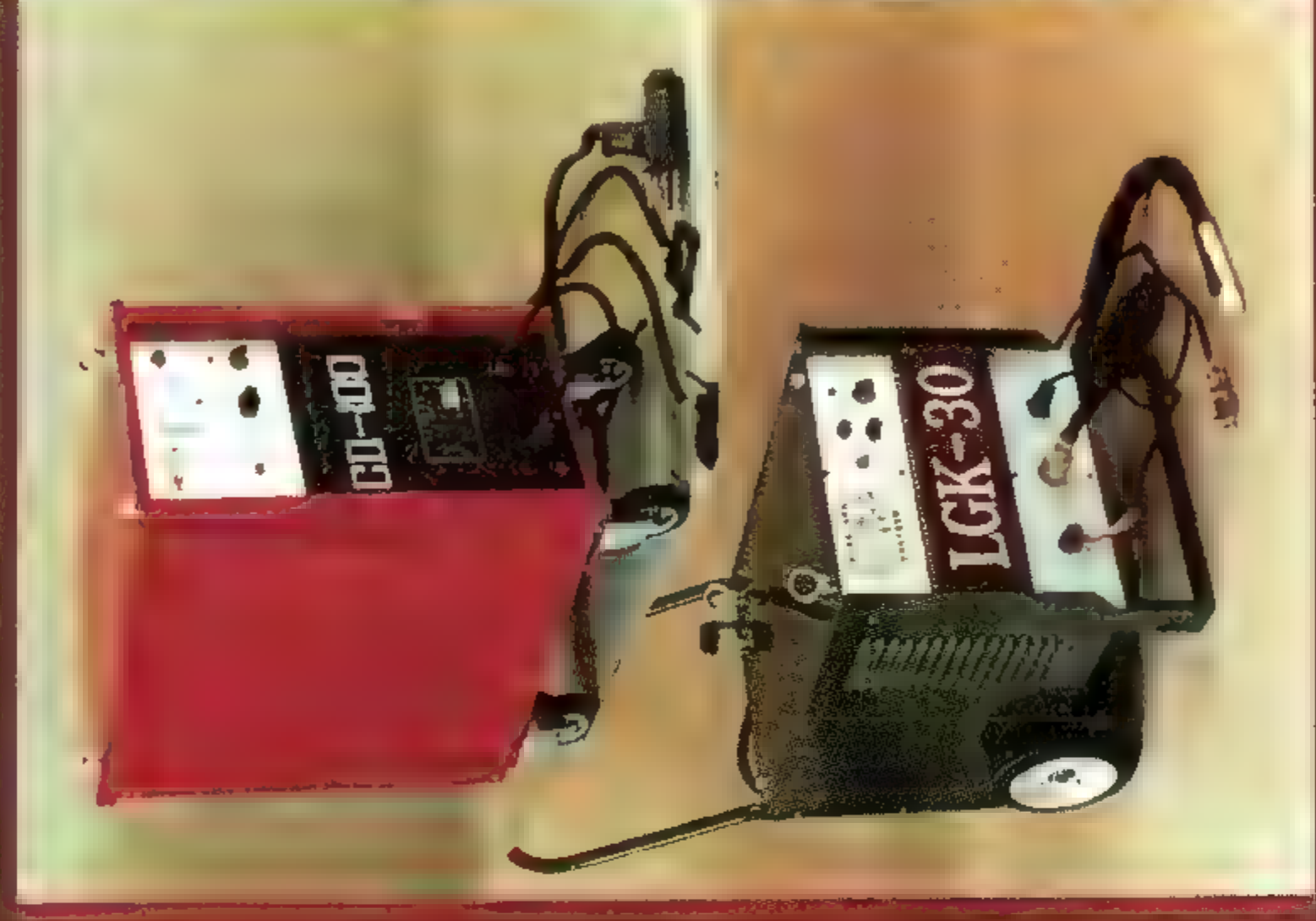
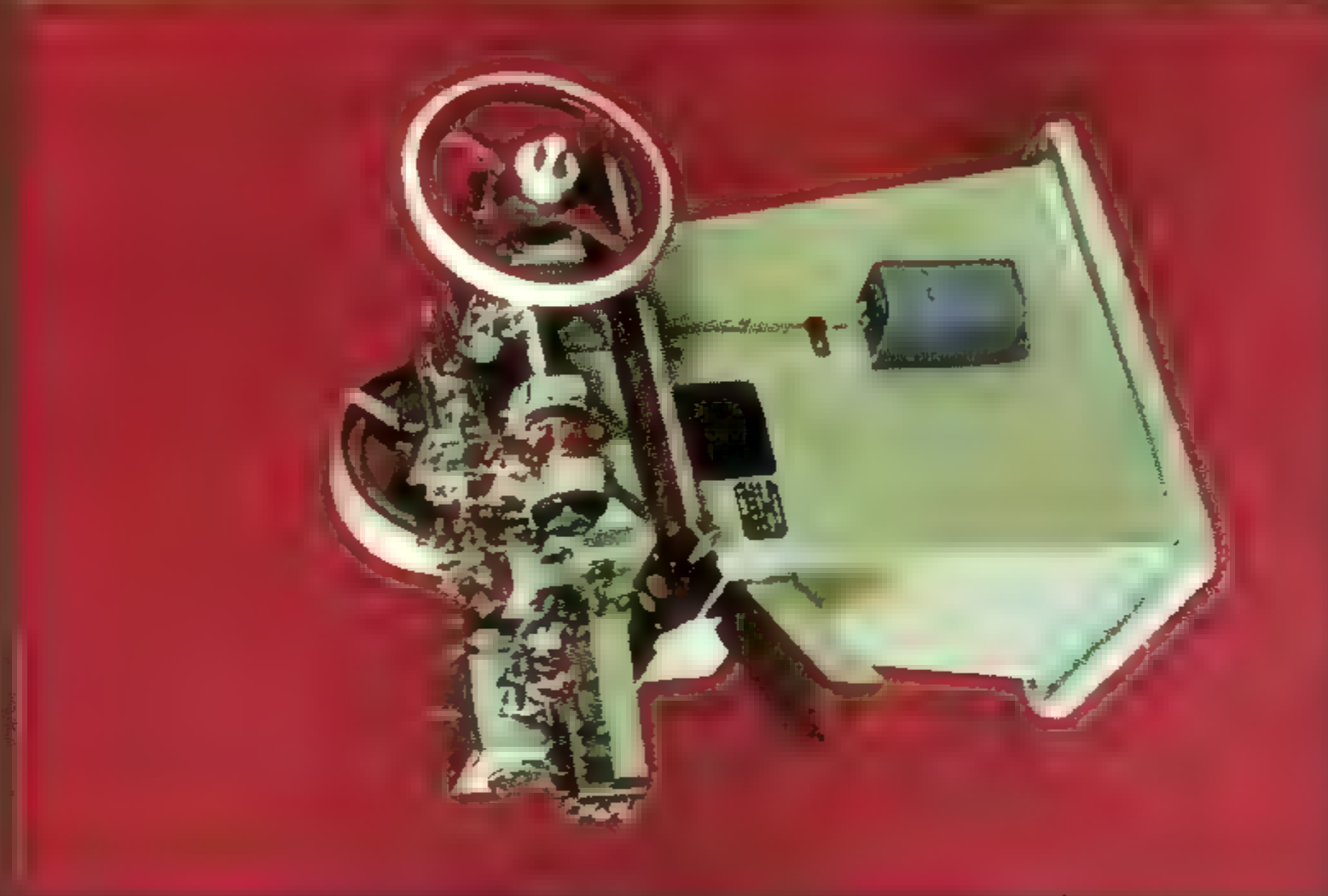
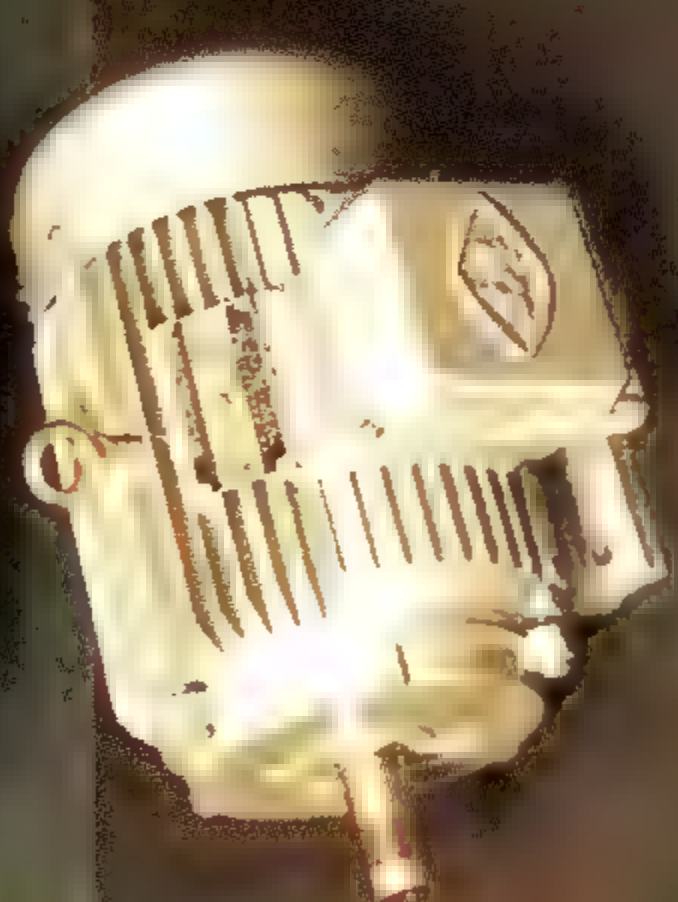
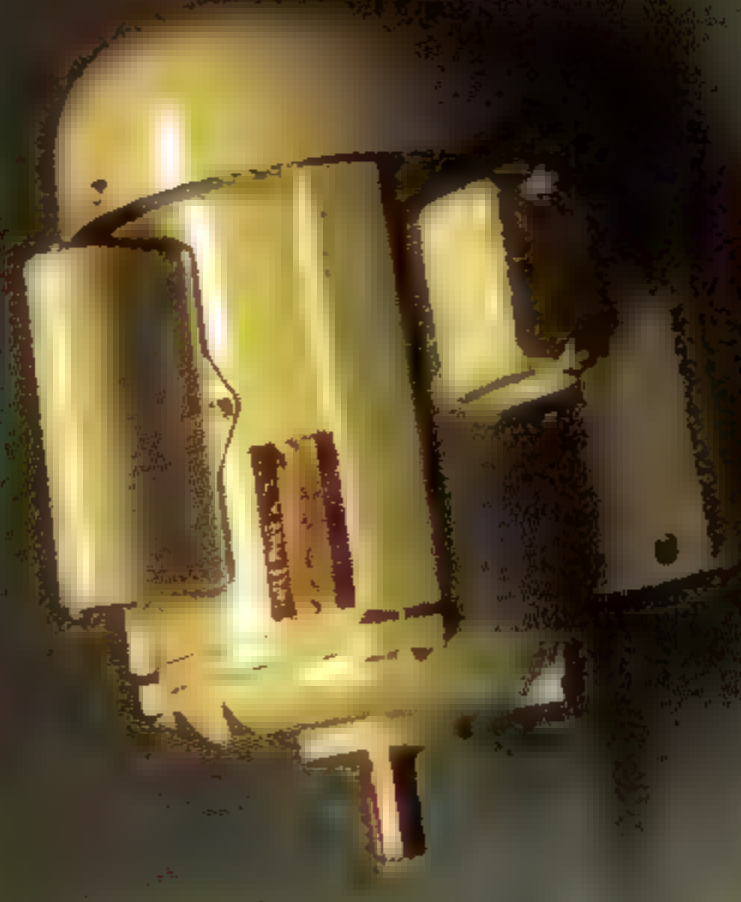
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'Underground Gallery' in the Desert'

PHOTOS BY ZHANG BAOXI

ARTICLE BY BEI YU



Located to the west of Jiuguang in Gansu Province, the Dingjiazha Tombs have been nicknamed the 'underground gallery' because of the artistic relics they contain. In the desert here between Jiuguang and Jiayuguan some 1,700 tombs, big and small, are scattered in a cemetery area stretching over five kilometres.

These tombs date back to the Jin dynasty (265-420). At that epoch the situation in the Central Plains was turbulent; there were endless civil wars, and the economy and culture suffered greatly as a result. Yet the Gansu Corridor — also referred to as the Hexi ('west of the Huanghe') Corridor — enjoyed relative peace under its sundry rulers. According to some historical records, although the Gansu Corridor was then 'but a trivial area located west of the Huanghe (Yellow River), its culture and arts could be compared with those of the Central Plains'. Later historians have accordingly termed this period the 'Hexi Culture'. The marvellous frescoes which decorate the coffin chambers of these tombs epitomize its accomplishments.

Let us concentrate on just one, the No. 5 tomb excavated in 1977, which is typical. Research has shown that it was built in the Sixteen Kingdoms period (304-439), a general term given to the plethora of small kingdoms established in the northwest alongside the Western and Eastern Jin and existing until they were amalgamated under the Northern Wei dynasty (386-534) by the Tuoba clan of the Xianbei tribe.

Funerals in ancient times were often very elaborate, at least as regards noble families. The design and layout of a tomb and the articles buried with the deceased were carefully chosen, a reflection of the opulent lifestyle of the wealthy and influential. This tomb is believed to have contained the body of a marquis or duke. The twin-chambered structure was built of bricks of uniform size. The front chamber is square with an arched vault, the rear one rectangular. The walls and ceilings are covered with the painted frescoes for which these tombs are famous.

Unlike the brick tomb paintings at Xincheng north of Jiayuguan dating from around the same period, where one brick represents an individual painting (see CHINA TOURISM no. 92), these frescoes cover a greater area of wall. The themes concentrate on the three levels of existence: heaven, hell, and the human world. Heaven is represented by themes such as the sun, the moon, dragons, clouds, Xiwangmu (the Western Queen Mother, a Taoist goddess), apsaras or similar winged fairy-like creatures, celestial steeds, white deer, etc. All of these are drawn from Chinese mythology.

More fascinating, however, are the paintings depicting the life and living environment of the tomb occupant, since they are a true record of his times. Thus we see entertainments such as dancing and singing girls, acrobats turning somersaults.... When the master goes out on a journey, he is accompanied by a whole retinue in carts. Vassals till the fields, others graze livestock. Women pick mulberry leaves while others cook. The storehouses are bursting with silken fabrics, as well as with everyday necessities such as baskets, cases, bows and arrows, quilt covers and horsetail whisks. The frescoes not only depict how the tomb occupant lived, they also describe all he will (hopefully) enjoy in the afterlife, which was thought of basically as a mirror image of life itself. These frescoes are therefore invaluable in telling us about the clothing, head-

This winged fairy of indeterminate sex is painted on the vaulted ceiling of the coffin chamber. It rides the winds among wispy clouds, soaring freely through the vast heavens. The apsaras type of image — a celestial being who dances, bears gifts or plays music — generally associated with Buddhism — was popular at the time of the Western and Eastern Jin.

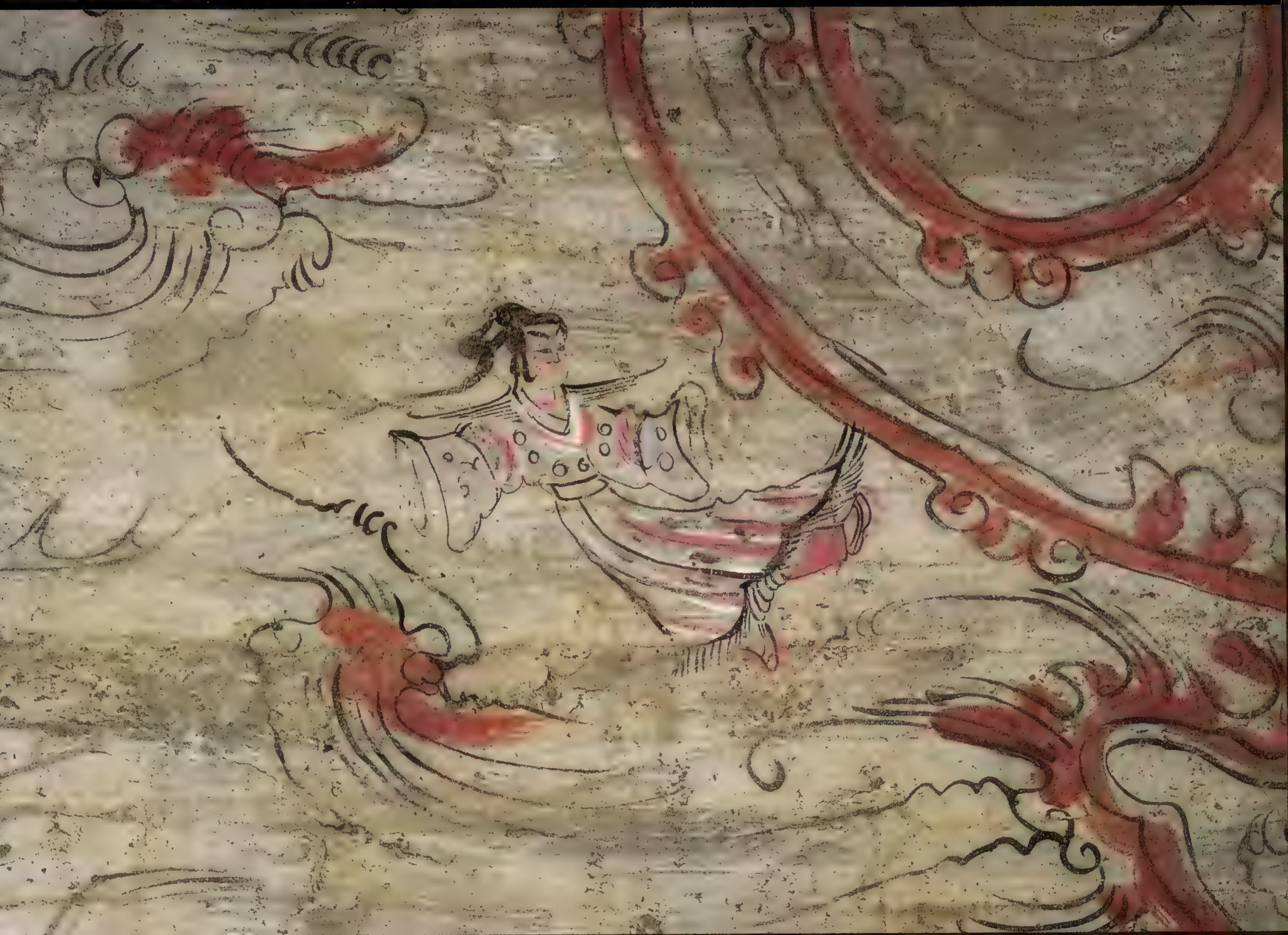
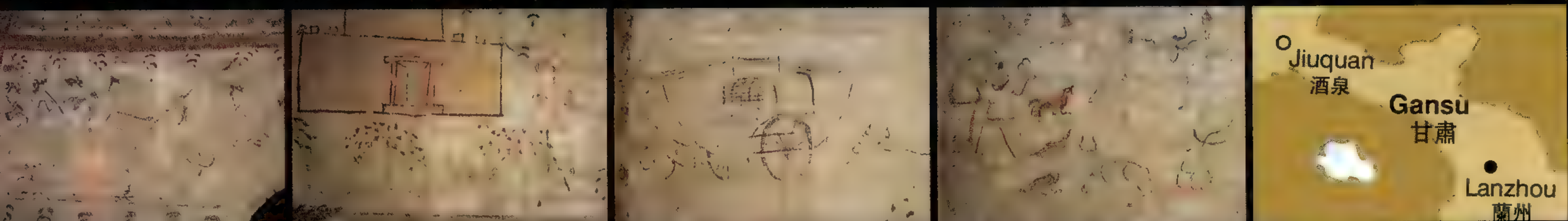
gear and footwear, the cooking utensils, interior furnishing and decorations, even the drinking and dancing which went on at Jin-dynasty banquets.

The human figures which appear in the frescoes are not only Han Chinese; there are also members of what are now considered minority nationalities. The Gansu Corridor was on the old Silk Road and was thus an important meeting point between the cultures of China and Central Asia. Although, from the Han dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) onwards, the corridor had seen the rise of four prefectures, with an increasing Han Chinese presence, these largely desert lands were also the grazing areas of sundry nomadic tribes. Thus it is no surprise to find portraits of Di, Qiang and Xianbei tribespeople alongside men with deep eye sockets and prominent noses from what the Han dynasty called the Western Regions (present-day Xinjiang and parts of Central Asia).

The walls of the coffin chambers were first given a thick coat of whitewash to prepare the surface. Then the frescoes were executed in bold, simple line drawing — one of the keystones of the Chinese artistic tradition — before the application of colour. Though simple, the pictures give a very realistic effect, aided by the increased amount of background detail by comparison with the individual brick tomb paintings mentioned earlier, where space constraints meant any extraneous details had to be omitted. The bright impression is partly due to the palette of colours used; ochre, oranges of various degrees of intensity, and a pinkish-orange are the main colours to be seen apart from white, black and grey.

The sense of movement and the vivacity of the human figures and animals are due to the consummate skill exhibited by the artists. For instance, the clouds truly seem to float along; horses gallop at full pelt, heads flung high, neighing into the wind. And, despite the deliberate distortion of proportions to express the relative social status in certain cases, the humans are all portrayed most convincingly, whether seated at leisure or involved in some activity.

Translated by Chen Jiaji





A farmer with a tasseled hat urges his ox to plough the fields. His prominent nose and other facial features indicate that he is a member of one of the peoples of the Western Regions. The Gansu Corridor's position on the Silk Road meant this was an ethnic melting-pot from early times. As he cracks the whip, full of vigour, he seems so real that we expect at any moment to hear his shouts of encouragement ring out.



The fruit tree grows luxuriantly, its branches arranged in a decorative and rather artificial manner. Fruit hangs down in clusters. Birds, including a parrot, perch among its leaves. A monkey swings from branch to branch, while a farmer works below. Nature and man seem to coexist in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

According to legend, a fiery horse appeared one day in the sky above the pointed peaks of the Kunlun Mountains. Galloping flat out through the clouds, it shakes its red mane and whinnies its message to the heavens. The lines of this celestial steed are smooth and very graceful, the long but powerful neck balanced by the sturdy hindquarters and long, flowing tail. The Gansu Corridor was in fact renowned for its fine horses. This one, in its physical beauty and its sheer spirit, rivals the world-famous bronze galloping horse from the Eastern Han dynasty (25-220) unearthed at Wuwei, further southeast in Gansu (see CHINA TOURISM no. 109).



Sitting on what looks like a raised dais, the richly garbed tomb occupant watches the entertainments being performed for his pleasure. This is the key figure among the frescoes in the coffin chamber. Research has shown that he was from a noble clan which had been granted the local duchy or marquisate by the successive kingdoms installed at Liangzhou (present-day Wuwei). The servant holds a canopy, a practical aid to shade his master from the sun, but also a ceremonial status symbol. Status is also the reason why the artist deliberately made the figures of the two servants disproportionately small, since this throws the master's figure into relief and expresses the servants' social inferiority.

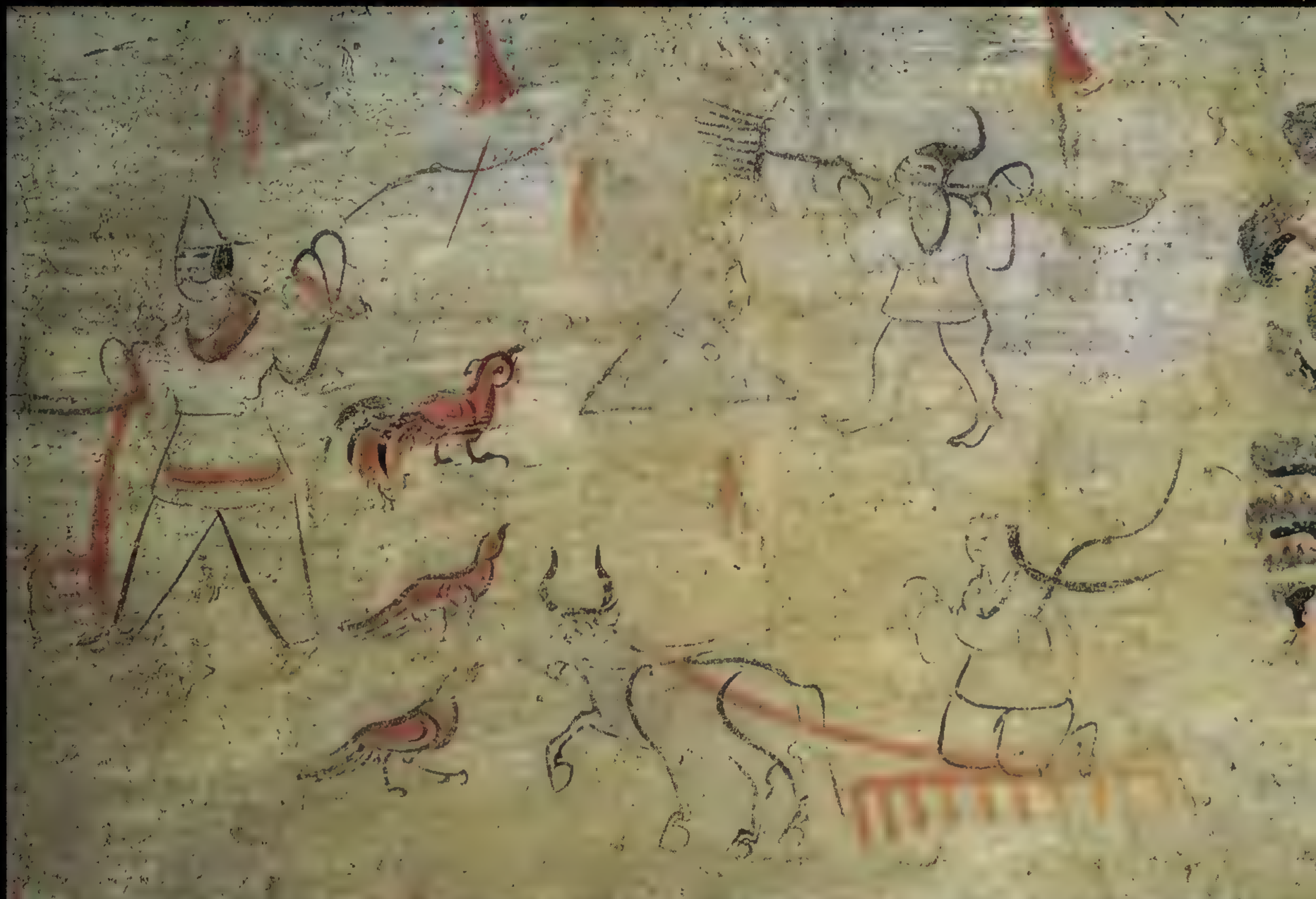


This light two-wheeled carriage is a special conveyance for the tomb occupant. Although in the Han dynasty similar carriages are depicted as drawn by horses, particularly for war purposes, this one is drawn by an ox. Since the owner obviously does not need it at present, it is 'parked' there with the ox lying down at its ease nearby, rather smugly chewing the cud. This would have been the fashionable vehicle for the nobility of the time.



Songs and dances are being performed for the amusement of the tomb occupant, whether in this life or in the afterlife. Four female musicians, their hair dressed in an astonishingly elaborate style, play instruments still hardly changed today: the Chinese lute (*pipa*), flute and waist drum. Two women dance gracefully and sing while another two particularly agile and slender girls turn somersaults in the foreground.

In what seems a quiet, idyllic rural scene, girls and women pluck leaves from mulberry trees and place them in their baskets while a shy child peeks through the half-open gateway to a fort or town wall made of adobe or rammed earth. He is watching two cockerels fighting. Inside the fort rises a watch-tower to which the villagers can repair for greater safety in case of an emergency — an attack from nomads, for example.



Three vassals are engaged in tilling the fields with an ox-drawn plough, harrowing and winnowing. The one who is winnowing has attracted the interest of a cock and his hens. The farmers' hairstyles tell us that they are members of the Qiang and Xianbei peoples (long hair and hair in plaits, respectively). The high degree of realism comes from the simple yet detailed brushwork used for this scene of everyday life.

Fengxi Porcelain Carving

TEXT BY CHENG CHENG

Fengxi porcelain carving has broadened in scope in recent years. More modern themes have added a new element of interest to the craft, such as high-heeled shoes, violins, dragons with tongues poked out and the Goddess of Mercy (Guanyin). The latter is amusing since it emits a cloud of smoke, creating a celestial atmosphere. Sales of this particular piece have apparently greatly increased since the introduction of this gimmick!

**(Photo by
Wong Chung Fai)**



With this potted chrysanthemum for instance, the pot is a milky-white colour with a percolated design, the veins differing in size. The craftsmanship is superb, but the most outstanding feature is the extremely realistic chrysanthemum itself. Its finely-nipped petals, leaves and stems are as thin as a sheet of paper. The well-arranged petals are cleverly spaced out and graded according to size, several of them curled or twisted as though about to fall off. The artist has successfully conveyed an impression of petals moving gently in the breeze.

(Photo by Raymond Leif)

Porcelain was being produced in Chaozhou, eastern Guangdong, as early as the Tang dynasty (618–907) and continued to flourish in the Song dynasty (960–1279). Fengxi, a town in southern Chaozhou, is famous for the highly skilled art of porcelain carving and its finished products are highly regarded by connoisseurs in the field.

Fengxi's reputation rests chiefly on the fine quality of the clay used. The porcelain produced is smooth and delicate and when carved is so fine as to be translucent. Elegant craftsmanship and the technique of percolation have made Fengxi one of the leaders in its field.



The use of gilding is a major feature of Fengxi porcelain carving, as shown in the vase with small dragon. The addition of the coiled body to the vase is a difficult and skilled task for the carver. The dragon is vividly executed, bringing a truly three-dimensional feel to this work of art.

(Photo by Wong Chung Fai)

Next we come to the more forceful character of Dhrtarastra or the Eastern Lokapala, one of four deities, the other three being (Southern) Virudhaka, (Western) Virupaksa and (Northern) Dhanada. The Eastern Lokapala has a white body and holds a *pipa* lute in his hand. He appears to be gazing at something and his expression is exaggerated and somewhat stern. The gorgeous colours and gilding which decorate his body are balanced by a certain refinement of execution, while the rugged and substantial contours of the lokapala reveal the stalwart nature of this guardian deity.

(Photo by Wong Chung Fai)



The porcelain figurines are among the finest of Fengxi's products. The seated lady musician skillfully plays the *pipa* lute, the very picture of grace and refinement. Full-figured, with well-proportioned arms and hands, her delicate skin is enhanced by the milky-white Fengxi porcelain. Her face and breast have a delicate pinkish tinge, which seems to lend her an air of shyness and reserve. ☞

(Photo by Raymond Lai)

Translated by He Fei

ILLUSTRATED BY WANG MENGQI
ADAPTED BY HUAN SHIMING

Zheng Banqiao (1693–1765) was a celebrated writer as well as painter and calligrapher of the Qing dynasty. He also served as a magistrate, showing concern for the poor, upholding justice and refusing to kowtow to high officials. This is one of the many folk legends told about him.



- 1 Zheng Banqiao was once the magistrate for Weixian County in Shandong Province. One day, as he was on his way to the *yamen*, his sedan chair was stopped by a crowd of noisy people who had gathered in front of the *yamen* gate, hoping to provoke an incident. A large man approached the magistrate rudely. An old peddler who was selling porridge hurried to get out of the way but the big man pushed him and he fell and his jar of porridge smashed against a rock.



- 2 The rude fellow dragged the poor old man to his feet, scolding him for obstructing the magistrate. This attracted even more people. Zheng Banqiao got out of his sedan chair to find out what was happening. The big man accused the old man of making trouble, but the latter swore it was not true, saying that he had been minding his own business, trying to make money to feed his family.



- 3 Having witnessed the incident himself, Zheng was sympathetic to the old man. But before he could speak, a fat landlord came up to him and bowed. He told the magistrate that the old man had been tripped by a demon.

ZHENG BANQIAO TRIES A ROCK

4 Pointing at the big rock by the road, the fat landlord said, "It is neither the sky, nor the earth. The demon is right there in that rock." The magistrate decided to call his bluff and asked for witnesses. All the gathered troublemakers spoke up, so he ordered the men from the *yamen* to carry the rock to court to stand trial, and everybody followed.




6 How could a rock speak? "You don't confess?" He banged his gavel and ordered, "Come and beat it forty times!" The *yamen* men began beating the rock. The witnesses could not help but laugh. Zheng Banqiao glanced at them and asked why they laughed while he was interrogating a suspect.



5 Zheng Banqiao began to question the blue rock. "You disgusting rock! Why did you break the old man's porridge jar? You must tell me the truth!"



7 One of the troublemakers answered, "Your Lordship, the rock has no mouth, how can it speak? It won't speak even if you give it four hundred lashes." Zheng pounced immediately. "Since the rock has no mouth, it has no legs either. How could it smash the old man's porridge jar?" He ordered his men to give them all forty lashes each for bearing false witness. When they begged for mercy, Zheng passed a large bamboo basket round and told them to choose: "If you don't want to be beaten, pay for the privilege!"

8 None of the troublemakers chose the beating. Instead, they reluctantly took out their money and threw it into the basket, which was soon full. Zheng Banqiao turned to the old man: "This is all yours. Take it and feed your family." Thereafter, nobody dared to make trouble in the county. 

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PHOTOGRAPHER: ZHU SHAOHUA



South China Sea

At dawn, at dusk,

Junks

follow their swollen sails

out on to the warm,

windswept sea.

Offshore

their silhouettes sway

pure, clean of line,

All along the boundless

horizon. 

J.M.

River Yalu and Changbai Mountains

The River Yalu (literally, Mallard Green) is named for its dark-green waters, the colour of a mallard drake's neck feathers.

This river rises not far from Mount Baitou (White Head) which, at 2,749 metres above sea-level, is the highest peak in the Changbai Range in southeastern Jilin Province. At an altitude of 2,194 metres on Mount Baitou sits a volcanic crater lake which measures five

kilometres across from north to south and 3.6 kilometres from east to west. It is more than 200 metres deep. This is Tianchi (Lake of Heaven) astride the Sino-North Korean border. Off one side of the lake pours a cascade sixty-eight metres long, the source of the so-called Second Tributary of the River Songhua (Di'er Songhuajiang).

The Yalu itself has its source on Sanqi (Three Treasures) Peak twenty kilometres from Lake Tianchi. Together with the River Tumen, which rises further east, but still in the Changbai Range, this river forms a natural barrier between China and the Korean Peninsula. The Yalu is 800 kilometres long. It flows in great sweeps, but in a generally southwesterly direction, along the border between Jilin and Liaoning and North Korea, the centre of the river being taken as the actual dividing line.

It has many tributaries, the Hunjiang being the largest. The river system covers a total area of 15,044 square kilometres, emptying into the Huanghai (Yellow Sea) amid sand-dunes at Donggou, the most northeasterly

point of the Chinese coastline. The landscape at this point is said to be similar to that south of the Yangtse in Jiangsu Province.

The climate along the river is continental, affected by the monsoons from the Sea of Japan but also by anti-cyclones from Siberia. There is an enormous seasonal temperature difference: the maximum in the summer can reach 37.6°C, while the winter minimum can drop to as low as -36.7°C. The average annual temperature is between 6 and 7°C. Winters are long, lasting from around the beginning of October to the end of April. Spring makes way for summer in mid-June, when there is a lot of rain. The autumn is short, commencing in September.

Because of the River Yalu's volume and speed, resulting from the drop in altitude, several hydroelectric power stations have been constructed along its banks.

Near its source, in the Changbai Mountains, there are vast, wonderful forests containing a wide range of animal and plant life in clear vertical zones. This is a nature reserve with a designated area where lumbering and hunting are permitted within certain limits, producing timber, ginseng, sable, deer's antlers, wild ginger, and other similarly precious items.

There are two possible approaches to the Changbai Mountains by train from Changchun or Shenyang, the provincial capitals of Jilin and Liaoning respectively. One is via Tonghua, with a change of train there to Erdao Baihe, the end of the line, followed by a roughly two-hour bus ride to Lake Tianchi, the main tourist base. The other is via Antu on the railway line leading to Yanji (capital of the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture) and Tumen. This is more direct, but entails a very much longer bus ride at the other end. The road from Erdao Baihe, involved in both these approaches, is open only between late June and September, depending on snow and road conditions. There are guesthouses in the vicinity of Lake Tianchi, as well as a hot-spring bathhouse.



Average Climatic Conditions Along River Yalu

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Tianchi, Changbai Mountains	Temperature (°C)	-23.2	-21.5	-16.6	-8.1	-0.9	4.0	8.6	8.1	1.5	-5.5	-13.6	-20.6
	Rainfall (mm)	12.7	14.5	36.0	73.2	106.5	186.7	346.2	307.2	138.6	51.2	41.5	18.3
Changbai Korean Autonomous County	Temperature (°C)	-17.4	-13.7	-5.6	3.4	10.8	14.4	18.4	17.7	11.0	4.2	-5.2	-14.2
	Rainfall (mm)	9.4	9.7	20.6	40.4	57.3	110.8	148.8	171.8	65.9	28.2	21.3	11.1
Ji'an	Temperature (°C)	-14.5	-9.9	-0.6	8.5	15.5	19.8	23.2	22.4	15.9	8.4	-0.5	-10.5
	Rainfall (mm)	11.3	13.5	21.7	49.3	67.7	109.0	236.5	245.9	93.8	45.0	35.5	17.8
Dandong	Temperature (°C)	-8.2	-5.3	0.9	8.4	14.7	19.2	23.0	23.2	17.9	11.0	2.7	-5.2
	Rainfall (mm)	10.0	12.2	20.4	51.1	56.5	109.9	296.2	257.7	103.9	56.6	30.8	13.8

North Korea Tourism

For the moment, the only way to enter North Korea by land is through China's northeast, via Dandong in Liaoning Province, the most direct way to do this being to take the international train to Pyongyang from Beijing. It is also possible to fly direct to Pyongyang from Beijing, Moscow, Khabarovsk and East Berlin.

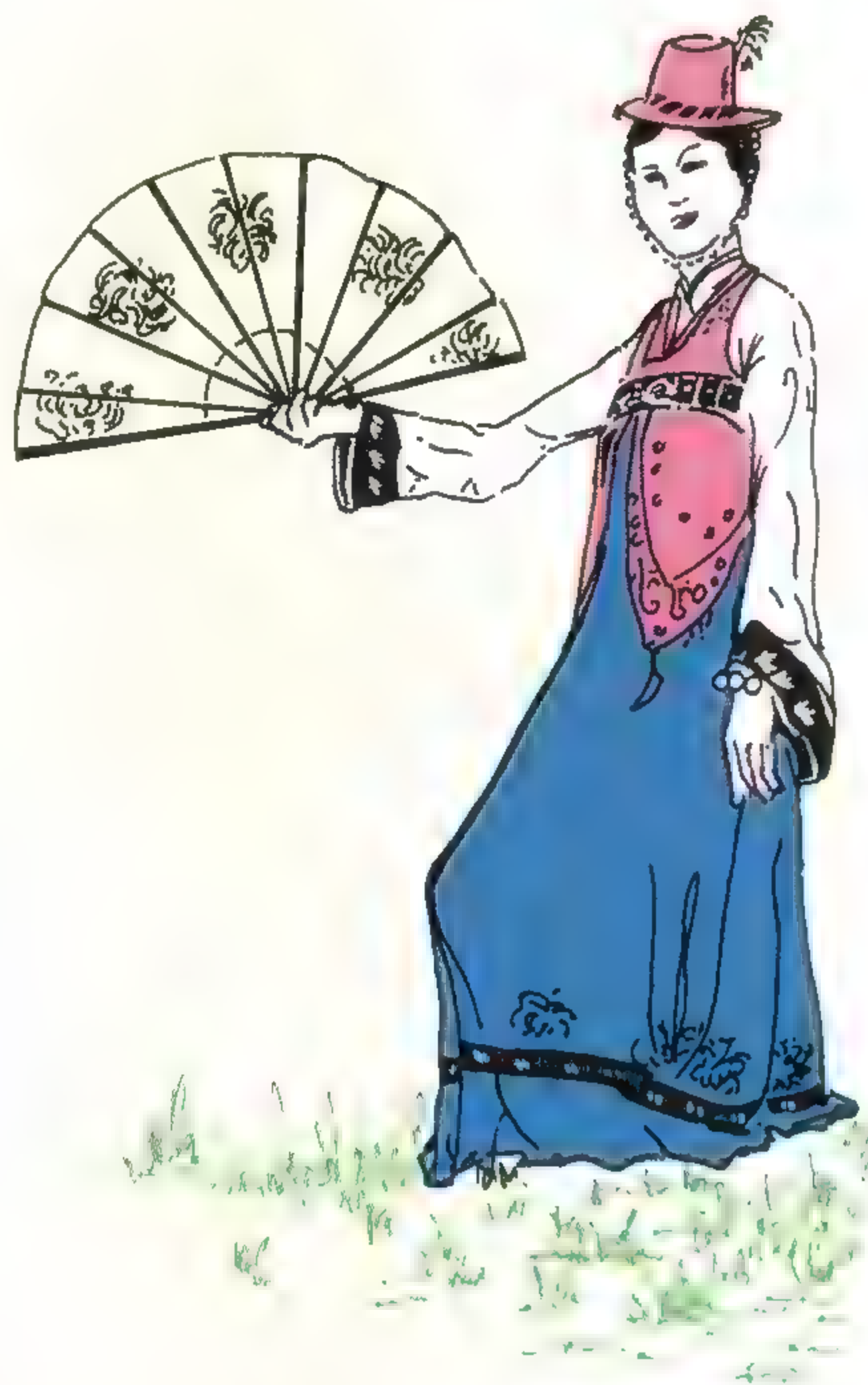
Travellers starting out from Hong Kong have a number of options which are faster than the train and less expensive than flying Hong Kong-Beijing-Pyongyang (which costs around HK\$4,800). There are two weekly flights from Guangzhou to Dandong. It is also possible to fly from Hong Kong or Guangzhou to Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning, and take the international train to Pyongyang from there. Yet another possibility is to fly from Hong Kong to Dalian, also in Liaoning, and take a long-distance bus to Dandong. The international train runs every two days so, if you are in a hurry, you could hire a car and cross the River Yalu (the border) to Sinuiju, the border town, from where there are more frequent domestic train services to the North Korean capital.

A visa can be applied for at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing or, in Hong Kong, through tourist agencies that handle tours to North Korea (such as China International Travel Service — CITS).

The fact is that, with the country only having been opened to foreign tourists for such a short time, it can prove very difficult to arrange anything on your own. A tour is advisable. Since 1989 North Korea's International Tourist Bureau has been co-operating with CITS branches in Shenyang and Dandong. Even if you are travelling completely alone, you can be provided with a 'group tour' by these CITS branches. For the moment, the cost (which includes all transport, guide services, food and hotels) is about US\$70 per person per day. If you are travelling alone, it is obviously much more expensive: US\$120 per day or even more.

Personal data, photocopies of travel documents, two recent photos and any itinerary plans can be sent to these CITS branches in advance. If you can include some time in Liaoning in your general travel plans, all the better. The fastest time for a North Korean visa to be granted after submission of all materials is three days.

The CITS Shenyang branch is housed in the same building as the North Korean Embassy at Fenghuang (Phoenix) Guesthouse,



No. 3, 6th Section, Huanghe Street, Shenyang, Liaoning (tel.: 466037, 464647; cable: 6954 Shenyang; fax: 466953; telex: 80081 CITSS CN).

CITS Dandong branch is to be found at 6th Floor, River Yalu Building, Jiuwei Road, Dandong, Liaoning (tel.: 27721; cable: 1954 Dandong; telex: 80046 DWBMB CN; fax: 24764).

For information and brochures, write to the International Tourist Bureau, Central District, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (cable: "RYOHAENGSA" Pyongyang; telex: 5998 RHS KP).

The best sights of North Korea include Mt. Kumgang with its sheer cliffs in the south-east, Mount Myohyang, the capital Pyongyang, Kaesong and its historical relics, and Panmunjom, the truce village on the 38th Parallel. It is also possible to apply to visit Mount Paekdu, the highest peak in the Changbai Mountains at 2,750 metres, which faces China across Lake Chon (the Korean name for China's Lake Tianchi, which straddles the border).

Most tours currently on offer involve a five to six-day stay. The following are two common itineraries:

- 1) Pyongyang (two days), night train to Kaesong and Panmunjom (one day), night train to Pyongyang, train to Mount Myohyang (one-two days), night train to Pyongyang;
- 2) Pyongyang (two days), night train to Kaesong and Panmunjom (one day), car/bus to Mount Kumgang (two days), car/bus to Pyongyang.

As the road to Mount Kumgang is long and winding, the first itinerary is the most popular at present. Apart from the actual tour arrangements, one has to calculate half a day to complete the border formalities at Dandong and get to or from the capital.

Points to Note

Although a major part of the fun of visiting any country is to make contact with the local people, it is difficult to do this in North Korea at present. Casual contacts with foreigners are frowned on by the authorities, so it is advisable to get your guide to set up meetings properly. If you do manage to talk to North Koreans, keep away from the touchy subjects of South Korea, the United States and Japan! If you take a guided tour, your guide will expect to arrange all your activities and accompany you everywhere. However, establishing cordial relations with the guide may result in a little more leeway to explore on your own.

Most major foreign currencies can be exchanged at the airport, border, international hotels, foreign exchange offices and shops for foreigners. Foreign exchange certificates are issued, which are available in two kinds: the red ones are for people from other socialist countries, the greeny-grey ones for capitalists.

Except in hotels, few restaurants or snackbars are open to foreigners. The guide will normally arrange lunch boxes on days when you cannot return to your hotel for meals.

Taxis cannot be hailed on the street; they must be arranged in advance by the travel agent or through hotels. There is little public transport. In Pyongyang, people mainly use the Metro or walk.

Cable and telex facilities are available, but there are no IDD or fax links.

There are not many hotels and guesthouses, but they are adequate for current tourism needs. Most rooms are equipped with a *tatami*-type bed, heated from below the floorboards.

Access to Soviet Central Asia via Xinjiang

Travellers who wish to visit the Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union using the new overland routes through the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region need to file applications with the nearest booking agent or representative of Intourist at least three months ahead of the travel date envisaged.

In Hong Kong, Wallem Travel (tel.: 845-4232) handles all enquiries concerning visas, itinerary planning and travel arrangements for groups and individuals in the Soviet Union.

In China you need to contact the Beijing branch of Intourist which is located in the Soviet Embassy, 4 Beizhong Street, Dongzhimen, Beijing (tel.: 5322201).

Apart from the overland routes via Khorgas and the Turugart Pass which are described in our Special Features this month, there has since July 1989 been an air link between Ürümqi, capital of Xinjiang, and Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. There is a flight twice a week, one departure in each direction being operated by Aeroflot on Tuesday, by CAAC on Friday. The one-way ticket price (1990) is US\$129 (economy).

Hongkong and Macau residents of Chinese origin wishing to take the land routes are advised to contact the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Xinjiang government as soon as they arrive in Ürümqi. This is to be found at Room 1107, Guangbo Dianshi (Television Broadcasting) Hotel, 22 Minzhu

Road, Ürümqi. If your time is limited, it would be better to contact this office before leaving Hong Kong with regard to the issue of a border permit.

For hotels and domestic air tickets, contact the Xinjiang branch of China Travel Service (CTS) — again in advance, if possible — at 47 Xinhua Road South, Ürümqi (tel.: 27238; telex: 79164 BOOTH CN).

Khorgas lies ninety-five kilometres northwest of Yining in the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture, about one kilometre from the Sino-Soviet border. It has been open since April 1988.

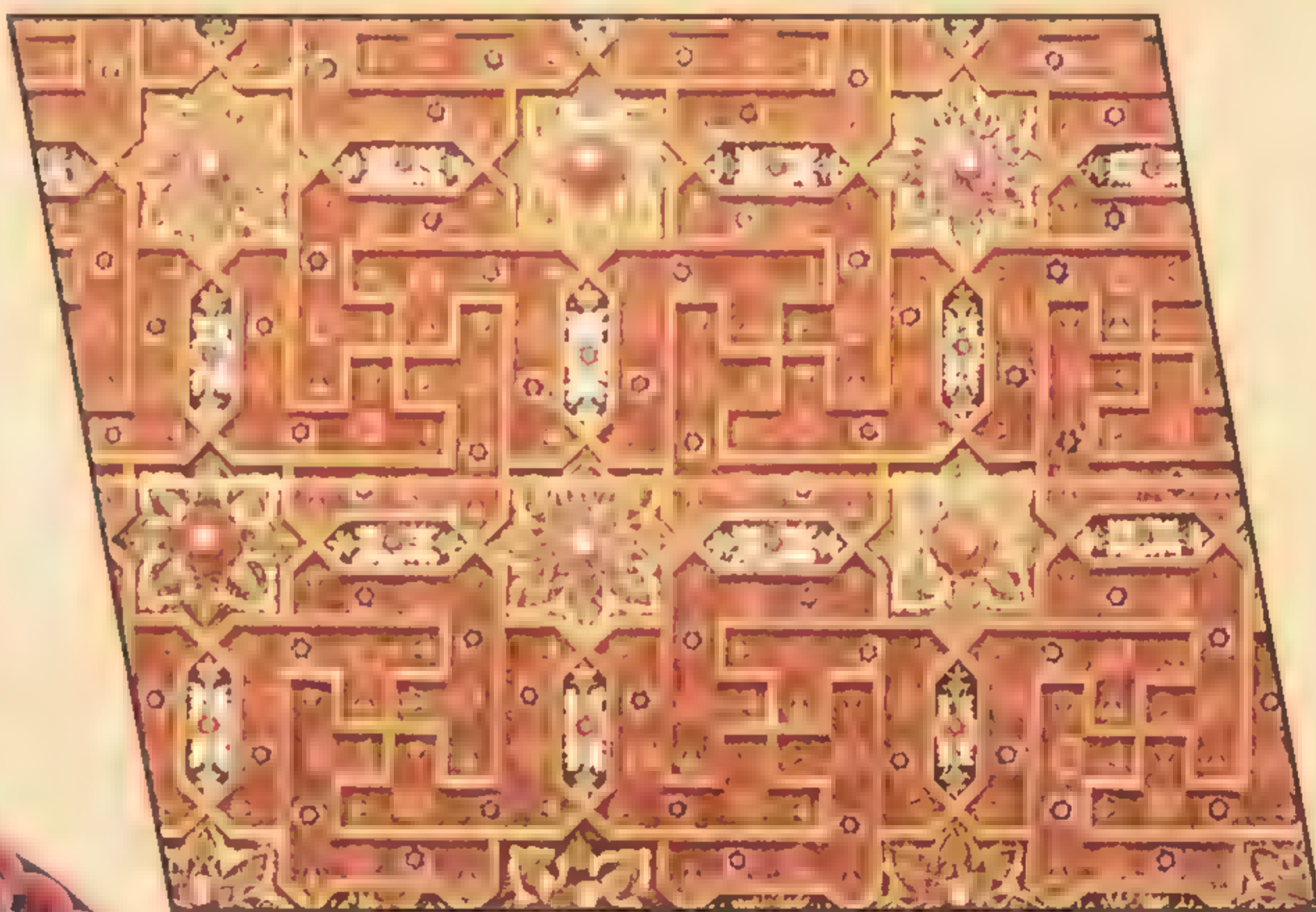
There is a bus to Khorgas from Yining twice a day. The bus station is close to the Lüzhou (Oasis) Cinema on Jiefang (Liberation) Street, Yining. The trip costs three yuan and takes three hours. Thirty kilometres before Khorgas there is a checkpoint beyond which travellers found to be without the relevant permits will not be allowed to continue.

The morning bus deposits you in Khorgas at noon so that you can cross the border in the afternoon. If you take the afternoon bus, you arrive late in the afternoon and will have to stay the night in Khorgas and cross the next morning, as our correspondent did. The Hotel Khorgas has beds at five yuan each; a second hotel, completed early this year, offers better facilities but at a considerably higher price.

Be warned that the Khorgas border crossing is packed between April and October, especially since special Sino-Soviet tours were inaugurated in 1989 to help Chinese citizens wishing to visit relatives living on the other side of the border. During these summer months, the maximum temperature in the region can be over 30°C, dropping to 20°C at night, and the climate is very dry.

Turugart is located north of Wuqia in the Kizil Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture, 164 kilometres from Kashi (Kashgar). Here too, there is a checkpoint at which papers are inspected well before the border.

The Turugart Pass, set at 3,700 metres above sea-level, has been open to travellers since July 1989 and is open all year round. To date there is no public transport between Kashi and Turugart; you need to hire a vehicle or hitch a lift on a truck going to the border. There are no hotels in the pass village. Travellers should contact the local Pass Administration to arrange overnight lodgings.



Carved and painted details of traditional Xinjiang architecture: photos by Jiaoli Kader

‘International’ Rivers

In vast China, with its thousands of kilometres of borders, many rivers form the national border, or start from or continue into a neighbouring country.

A recent report in a Chinese geographical magazine classified fifteen of these ‘international’ rivers as highly important. According to the report, only the Soviet Union and Argentina have more rivers in this category, with Chile tying with China for third place.

These rivers often pass through an astonishing variety of climate and topography before reaching their outlet. The Heilongjiang (the Russian Amur) rises in Siberia and describes a sinuous curve through areas so cold it freezes over in winter before turning north again to exit into the Sea of Okhotsk. The Yarlung Zangbo originates at over 4,500 metres on the roof of the world, in Tibet, and passes through the steamy jungles and plains of northeastern India as the Brahmaputra before joining the Ganges and flowing through Bangladesh into the Bay of

Bengal as the Jamuna (see CHINA TOURISM no. 118). And, from its source on the borders of southern Qinghai and Tibet, the Lancang rushes down through the Hengduan Range in Yunnan

to become the majestic Mekong of Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Here are some of these ‘international’ rivers of China:

River	Location in China	Other countries traversed	Length within China (kilometres)	Final outlet
Yalu 鴨綠江	Jilin 吉林 Liaoning 遼寧	bordering North Korea	795	Huanghai (Yellow Sea)
Tumen 圖們江	Jilin	bordering North Korea	459	Sea of Japan
Amur/Heilongjiang 黑龍江	Heilongjiang 黑龍江	rising in and bordering Soviet Union	3,420	Sea of Okhotsk
Ertix 額爾齊斯河/Irtysh/Ob	Xinjiang 新疆	Soviet Union	546	Kara Sea
Ili 伊犁河/ili	Xinjiang	Soviet Union	441	Lake Balkhash
Sênggê Zangbo 森格藏布江 (Shiquanhe) (獅泉河)/Indus	Tibet	Kashmir, Pakistan		Arabian Sea
Yarlung Zangbo 雅魯藏布江/Brahmaputra/Jamuna	Tibet	India, Bangladesh	2,057	Bay of Bengal
Nujiang 怒江/Salween	Yunnan 雲南	Burma	2,013	Bay of Bengal
Lancang 瀾滄江/Mekong	Yunnan	Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam	2,153	South China Sea
Yuanjiang 元江/Hong Hà	Yunnan	Vietnam	772	Beibu Gulf (Gulf of Tongking)

Tibet Access and the Border Post of Zham

On May 1 1990 the Chinese central authorities lifted martial law in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. It had been in effect since March 1989. Despite this, however, it seems that there has been no accompanying relaxation in the restrictions on individual foreign travellers. In a nutshell, if you’re in a highly organized group, you will be welcomed, if not, not!

Announcements made by the Chinese tourism authorities to date have been confusing. Thus, although it has been reported that the ‘minimum three-person group’ restriction no longer applies, it has also been stated that all ‘individual foreign travellers’ must join a group tour. In addition, it is now imperative to submit an application in advance to the ‘department concerned’ in Tibet. It is not immediately clear what this means in practice, and whether travel agencies can apply for permission on behalf of a hopeful visitor. At any rate, you must have special advance permission to enter Tibet.

In addition, prices have risen steeply. Formerly, those who didn’t mind roughing it could enter Tibet along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway from the northeast, taking the train from Xining in Qinghai to Golmud, then changing to a long-distance bus to Lhasa. This would now officially cost a minimum of 1,500 FEC per person one way, not counting meals and lodging.

A more comfortable and faster way of getting to Lhasa is by air from Chengdu in Sichuan. A five-day group tour now costs around 2,300 FEC return per person, including transport, board, lodging and official guide. Some travel agencies in Chengdu are reportedly offering four-day, three-night trips for US\$700 and one is arranging overland trips from Xining for around US\$300.

Assuming successful arrival in Lhasa, by whatever route, it is obligatory to use the services of an official guide, who will arrange all activities. Unsupervised, independent sightseeing is totally forbidden (at least in theory). The range of places open for visits by foreign tourists in and around Lhasa also appears to have been restricted, as has choice of accommodation.

Given the circumstances, the current possibility of making the overland trip from Lhasa to Kathmandu is also uncertain. It may well prove easier to organize such a trip from the Nepalese end, as travel agencies in Kathmandu have been doing.

Zham or **Zhangmu**, the border settlement on the Sino-Nepalese border, is over 500 kilometres southwest of Xigazê, the capital of Back Tibet, but only 110 kilometres or half a day’s journey from Kathmandu. Located in the southern foothills of the Himalayas, it is set at over 2,300 metres above sea-level.

Anyone who has to stay the night there will find a modern high-rise hotel, the Yulan (Rhododendron) Hotel, which is generally reserved for tour groups. However, it is also possible to find a bed in one of the family-style lodges, which are friendly, if lacking in amenities.

One possible side-trip from Zham may be of interest to those who do not have the time to visit the Solu Khumbu area in eastern Nepal. The village of Lixin (Gongbasanba), ten kilometres from Zham, is a Sherpa settlement of wooden and stone houses, and can be reached by a road susceptible to landslides, as well as by a rougher path. There is a community of more than one thousand Sherpas living in Lixin and nearby Xuebugang.

The word Sherpa in Tibetan means ‘people from the east’ and is said to derive from the belief that the ancestors of the Sherpa people originated in eastern Tibet along the upper reaches of the River Jinsha. Sherpas have their own spoken language, but no script — they use the Tibetan script — and they are followers of Tibetan Buddhism. In China they are not recognized as a separate national minority. However, the majority of them live in Nepal, particularly in the true ‘Sherpa country’ in the vicinity of Mount Qomolangma (Everest), where they are hill farmers, traders, high-altitude porters and mountain guides.

Flights in China

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Guangzhou-Shenyang	1 5	17:05	21:00	CACJ6314
	2 6	17:35	21:30	CACJ6312
	3 7	13:05	16:55	CACJ6316
	4 6	12:05	15:50	CACZ3601
	4 7	17:30	21:20	CACJ6304
	1 3 5	17:45	23:15	CACJ6302
Shenyang-Guangzhou	1 5	08:10	12:05	CACJ6313
	2 6	08:05	12:00	CACJ6311
	3 7	08:30	12:15	CACJ6315
	4 6	16:45	20:30	CACZ3602
	4 7	08:05	11:55	CACJ6303
	1 3 5	08:55	12:50	CACJ6301
Guangzhou-Dandong	2 6	13:50	17:35	CACJ6326
Dandong-Guangzhou	2 6	13:05	19:15	CACJ6325
Guangzhou-Chengdu	3	18:50	20:40	CASZ4340
	4	16:10	18:00	CASZ4326
	2 7	10:25	12:15	CASZ4318
	3 7	15:10	17:05	CASZ4322
	2 5 7	08:20	10:45	CACZ3403
	1 2 4 7	15:00	17:00	CASZ4302
	1 3 5 6	18:40	20:50	CASZ4306
Chengdu-Guangzhou	3	07:10	09:00	CASZ4339
	4	07:05	08:55	CASZ4325
	1 5	07:25	09:20	CASZ4303
	2 7	07:45	09:30	CASZ4317
	2 5 7	11:40	13:55	CACZ3404
	1 2 4 6	12:10	14:05	CASZ4301
	1 3 5 6	07:00	08:50	CASZ4305
Guangzhou-Harbin	1 5	13:15	17:30	CACZ3603
	4 7	12:40	16:66	CACJ6362
Harbin-Guangzhou	1 3 5 6	14:11	17:55	CACJ6361
	4 7	12:30	16:45	CASZ4632
Guangzhou-Urumqi	2 3 5 7	14:00	17:20	CAXO9302
Urumqi-Guangzhou	2 3 5 7	08:30	13:00	CAXO9301
Urumqi-Kashi	1 4 6	08:30	10:20	CAXO9903
	2 3 5 7	17:25	19:15	CAXO9901
Kashi-Urumqi	1 4 6	11:10	12:50	CAXO9904
	2 3 5 7	20:10	21:50	CAXO9902
Urumqi-Yining	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:50	10:25	CAXO9917
Yining-Urumqi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:00	12:35	CAXO9918
Hong Kong-Shenyang	1	07:30	11:00	CA 603
Shenyang-Hong Kong	1	17:30	19:30	SZ4002
Hong Kong-Chengdu	3	17:30	19:30	SZ4004
	6	11:20	13:20	SZ4002
Chengdu-Hong Kong	1	14:25	16:40	SZ4001
	3	14:25	16:40	SZ4003
	6	08:15	10:30	SZ4001
Chengdu-Lhasa	1 2 4 5 7	06:55	09:00	CASZ4403
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	06:45	08:50	CASZ4401
Lhasa-Chengdu	7	09:45	11:35	CASZ4141
	1 2 4 5	09:45	11:35	CASZ4404
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:35	11:25	CASZ4402

(Valid Summer and Autumn 1990)

Train Schedules Beijing-Manzhouli-Moscow

19 Exp.	Train Station	No.	20 Exp.
20:32	Beijing		06:32
22:19	Tianjin		04:55
01:53	Shanhaiguan		01:24
04:12	Jinzhou		20:59
07:22	Shenyang		20:00
11:46	Changchun		15:51
14:55	Harbin		12:24
17:10	Daqing		09:59
03:01	Hailar		00:23
07:01	Manzhouli		21:48
	(Moscow Time)		
05:40	Zabaykalsk		14:06
15:55	Chita		00:10
01:12	Ulan-Ude		14:10
08:53	Irkutsk		05:59
14:57	Novosibirsk		23:18
22:46	Kirov		15:01
11:35	Moscow		01:20

Note: Express 19 departs from Beijing every Saturday and arrives in Moscow every Friday.
Express 20 departs from Moscow every Saturday and arrives in Beijing every Friday.

Train Schedules Beijing-Dandong-Pyongyang

27 Exp.	Train Station	No.	28 Exp.
16:48	Beijing		11:00
18:44	Tianjin		08:08
20:14	Tangshan		06:46
22:21	Shanhaiguan		04:40
00:04	Jinzhou		00:15
03:46	Shenyang		23:23
05:18	Benxi		21:48
09:35	Dandong		18:13
	(Pyongyang Time)		
12:12	Sinuiju		17:13
12:45	Yanju		15:12
13:18	Sonchon		14:50
13:59	Jungju		14:08
15:55	Pyongyang		12:00

Note: Express 27 departs from Beijing every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and arrives in Pyongyang every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.
Express 28 departs from Pyongyang every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and arrives in Beijing every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Train Schedules Mudanjiang-Suifenghe

571 O	Train Station	No.	572 O
06:53	Mudanjiang		18:28
09:09	Muling		16:24
11:45	Suiyang		13:12
12:16	Suifenghe		13:16

Train Schedules Harbin-Manzhouli

389 O	Train Station	No.	390 O
20:39	Sankeshu		06:47
21:50	Harbin		06:07
00:55	Daqing		02:43
06:29	Butha (Zalantun)		21:33
08:47	Boketu		19:26
09:26	Xing'anling		18:41
13:23	Hailar		14:27
15:43	Qagan		12:04
16:56	Manzhouli		10:52

Train Schedules Beijing-Shenyang-Dandong

321 O	93 Exp.	291/293 F.T.	Train Station	No.	292/294 F.T.	94 Exp.	322 O
		22:18	Beijing		14:52		
		03:38	Chengde		09:06		
		12:14	Fuxin		22:47		
		16:28	Shenyang		19:47	13:08	15:14
10:44	15:32	18:00	Benxi		17:56	11:40	13:29
14:18	18:01	21:10	Dandong		14:32	08:35	09:50

Exp. Express
F.T. Fast through passenger train
O. Ordinary passenger train

Train Schedules Shenyang-Jilin-Tumen

373 O	255 F.T.	Train Station	No.	256 F.T.	374 O
	From Tianjin			To Tianjin	
	03:07	Shenyang		01:40	
	04:06	Fushun		00:29	
21:37	12:10	Jilin		16:14	02:45
02:46	17:18	Dunhua		11:50	22:06
04:08	18:36	Antu		10:18	20:25
05:42	20:00	Yanji		08:51	18:31
06:34	20:52	Tumen		07:44	17:26

A Secretive Land Lifts the Veil

(Continued from page 69)

of the table and told us that this served as the demarcation line in this room. But in here we could 'cross the line' as we pleased. It is somehow an amusing thought that, when a group of tourists from North Korea has been ushered out of the room and the door closed behind them, the door on the opposite side is opened for an equivalent 'crossing of the line' by tourists from South Korea!

Kaesong and Koryo

By the time we returned to Kaesong, it was time for lunch. We went to the Koryo Nationality Guesthouse to try a genuine Kaesong delicacy — chicken stewed with ginseng, the Kaesong Koryo ginseng being especially famous. The food was traditional and the setting a delight since all the rooms were in the beautiful Koryo style. This guesthouse was formerly the luxury mansion of a rich family. During the Korean War, Kaesong belonged to the South and was marked out for the DMZ; it thus escaped the holocaust. It now boasts the largest number of historical sites in the whole of Korea, or at least North Korea (the equivalent in South Korea is the famous Silla Kingdom capital at Kyongju or Gyeongju). A major reason for this is that Kaesong became the capital city of Koryo (918–1392) after the decline of Silla. The seventy-odd places of interest there include the ruins of a palace, imperial tombs, monasteries and academies.

In the afternoon, we visited Sonjuk Bridge and the tomb of King Kongmin. The bridge, on the eastern edge of the city, was built in the tenth century and is noted for a historic event that took place there in the fourteenth century. It is said that Yi Song-gye, founder of the Yi dynasty, before he usurped the throne in 1392, ordered his son to murder a court official loyal to Koryo. This he did on the bridge, where the bloodstains can still be seen. Opposite the bridge two tablets have been erected in praise of the victim's loyalty and a tablet marks the spot where he is said to have dismounted from his horse. What surprised me was the fact that these tablets bear a strong resemblance to Chinese ones and that the inscriptions on them are in Chinese script (Chinese characters were used in Korea until *hangul* was invented in the fifteenth century). The Yi dynasty incorporated many practices of neo-Confucianism.

King Kongmin, the thirty-first ruler of Koryo (reign dates 1330–1374), and his queen are buried about thirteen kilometres west of Kaesong. The twin tomb mounds are built halfway up a hill on a terrace reached by a steep flight of steps. This terrace is about forty metres wide; stone sheep and tigers stand in front of the tumuli, which are also flanked by four statues of civil and military officials, just like the traditional layout of a Chinese imperial mausoleum.

We had to move fast to reach Pyongyang by midnight. And, early the next morning, at six o'clock, we were off again — to Mount Myohyang, a famous beauty spot 160 kilometres north of the capital. We were scheduled to get there at ten, but the train we were on broke down for three whole hours so that it was already one in the afternoon by the time we reached our destination.

'International Friendship'

Now the place I most wanted to see was the International Friendship Exhibition which — you've guessed it! — is open every day, but mornings only. I dashed there at once to find it had just closed its doors for the day. Overcome by disappointment — all that way and the early start for nothing — I stamped my feet and in other ways showed my vexation. At that very moment, a young woman came out of the museum building in a long traditional Korean gown; she proved to be a guide working there. Seeing that I and the rest of my group were foreign, she could not bear to see our disappointment and, with her help and the consent of the authorities, an exception to the rule was made. The hall was reopened just for us — 'international friendship' indeed!

This International Friendship Exhibition is housed in a palatial building and consists of tens of thousands of gifts donated to Kim Il-Sung from friends and admirers all over the world, including other heads of state and governments. To protect the floors and carpets, we were each issued with a pair of cloth overshoes before we were permitted to enter through the heavy bronze gate — all eight tons of it — which is the pride of the building.

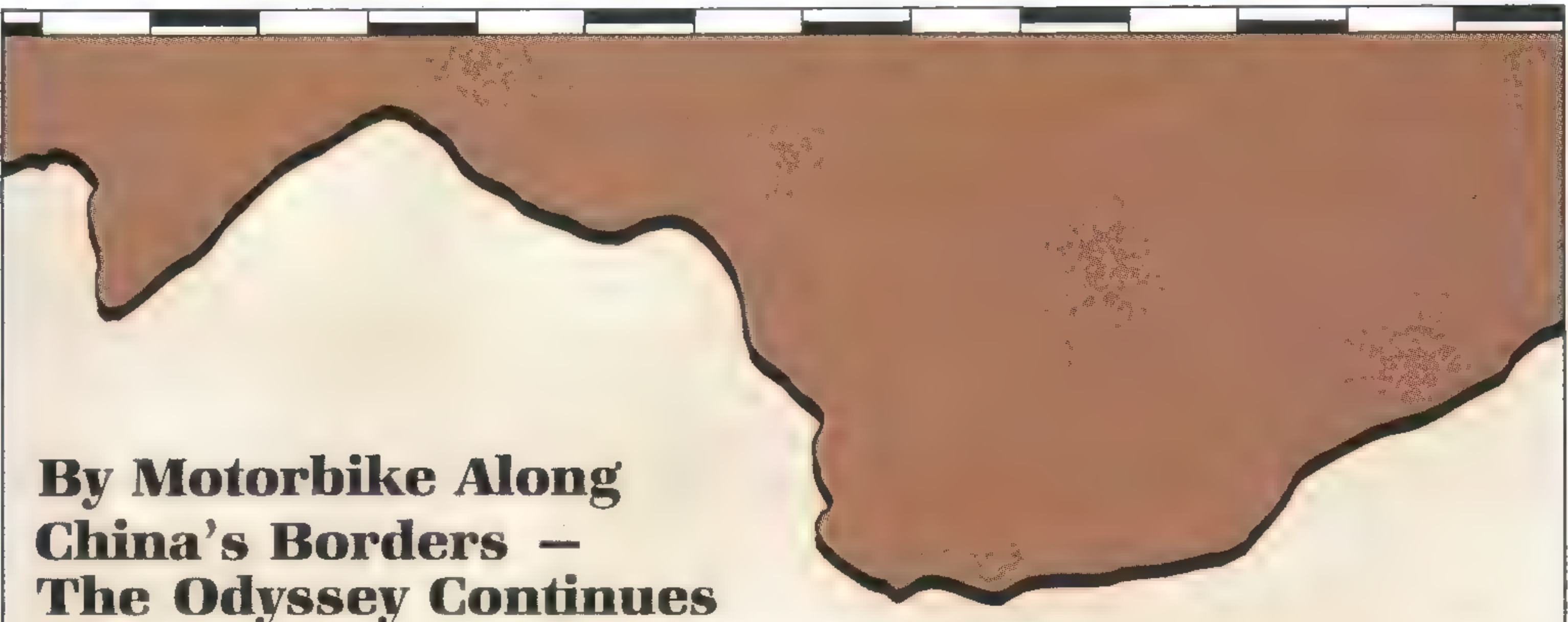
This six-storeyed building has numerous exhibition rooms and gifts are displayed according to the geographical location of the donors. The objects themselves range from gems and exquisite carvings, through porcelain and paintings, to automobiles. As we thought it was not right for us to stay there too long since the place was officially closed and we were inconveniencing the staff, we walked in and out of the labyrinthine rooms for at most two hours — just time enough to take a cursory look at the treasures on display. Less than half of all the actual items are displayed at any one time, I was told. When we finally left, we gobbled down some food quickly before rushing off to see the mountain itself.

Mount Myohyang (Wonderful Fragrance) is named for its *wonderful* topographical features and the *fragrance* of its cypress trees. The main peak in the range, Piro, rises to 1,909 metres above sea-level and the mountain district covers 375 square kilometres. There are over a hundred waterfalls there, said to be the most magnificent specimens in all of Korea. It was a pity that, at the time of my visit, it was the dry season so the waterfalls were rather weak and unexciting. Thus, even though I tried my best to cover the entire fourteen-kilometre route to the Manpok (Ten Thousand Falls) Valley, I was still unable to witness the fabled scene of 'ten thousand cataracts crashing down'.

However, I was impressed by the Youth League summer camp set up at the base of the mountain. During my time in North Korea, most of the other foreign tourists I encountered were from Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union — there is little domestic tourism. The summer camp was in fact the only large-scale facility for North Korean holiday-makers that I saw. I couldn't resist taking a shot of the children with their bright, smiling faces, such a contrast to the other portraits I took, North Koreans being notoriously serious in their manner and speech.

Translated by Ren Jiazhen

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By Motorbike Along China's Borders — The Odyssey Continues

(Continued from page 109)

On November 1 1989 I left the most easterly county in Yunnan — Funing — and entered western Guangxi. The road conditions were much better than in Yunnan, so I could relax and look around. I was attracted by the karst landforms, with mountains rising straight up from the flat paddy fields like pointed bamboo shoots. The beautiful scenery plus the nice, flat road made me very happy. Exhilarated, I put my foot down and sped through Napo, Daxin and Longzhou without stopping, intent on reaching Pingxiang.

This latter town is not very large in area but it has a population of roughly 80,000, eighty percent of whom are Zhuang (Guangxi's full title is, after all, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region). Because it borders on Vietnam, many Vietnamese come here to trade, primarily in the marine products and medicinal herbs you see set out in booths or stalls by the roadside.

I went with a local guide to a village on the outskirts of Pingxiang where two healthy Zhuang women were ploughing the paddy fields with the aid of a buffalo. I was about to take some shots when my guide told me not to waste my film; such a scene was hardly worth a picture, in his opinion. All heavy work is done by women among the Zhuang nationality — tilling, harvesting, threshing and transporting the grain. What would be a suitable occupation for a Zhuang man? My guide pointed me in another direction where a man was ... herding ducks!

The Youyiguan (Friendship Pass) not far from Pingxiang was built in 1398 in the Ming dynasty. It has received repeated baptisms of fire and has changed its name several times too. It was rebuilt in 1957 but more recent mementoes of battles are discernible; it bears the scars of bullets and there are craters in the ground behind the gateway and another in the courtyard in front. The road leading to Vietnam is barricaded by barbed wire fences.

Leaving Pingxiang I drove back through Ningming. Climbing over the Shiwandashan (Hundred Thousand) Hills — a Yao minority area where the highest peak rises to a mere 1,462 metres above sea-level — I came at last to the River Beilun, which forms

the southern end of the Sino-Vietnamese border.

The town of Dongxing is built against a hill facing the sea at the mouth of the river. The waters of the Beibu Gulf seemed placid; there was neither wind nor waves. From Dongxing I could see Mong Cai, the Vietnamese border town on the opposite bank. Not much more than one hundred years old, Dongxing has a population of just 8,000 and an area of less than eight square kilometres. I found a wide range of imported goods on sale in its streets. Heping (Peace) Street, one of the older thoroughfares, has many European-style buildings, a legacy of the French presence in Indochina. Since Dongxing is a Sino-Vietnamese trading post, boats of both nations ply up and down the Beilun and goods are piled high on the quaysides.


But the feature of Dongxing which affected me most was the wondrous smell of seafood. Just the thought of eating fish was a huge treat for me, who had spent the past three years travelling around China's interior borders, far from the sea. I went into a small restaurant and ordered siphon-worm (*Sipunculus nudus*), a speciality of the Beibu Gulf, as well as grouper fish steamed in clear soup and crab with ginger and spring onions. A delicious feast with which to celebrate the end of this part of my journey. After all, I had hardly had a square meal for the past few months as I made my way through high mountains and deep valleys.

Postscript

When finally I saw the sea on November 30 1989, I was greatly excited at the thought of all I had accomplished so far. It had taken me three years to travel thousands of kilometres by motorbike from Heilongjiang, passing through Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Xinjiang, Tibet, Yunnan and now Guangxi. I was really tired, but my new starting point lay right under my nose, giving me fresh purpose.

The next stage of my journey would take me along the 18,000 kilometres of China's coastline. First stop — Weizhou Island off Beihai — then, hopefully, the Nansha (Spratly) Islands....

Translated by He Fei



Contributions Welcome!

Do you have a story to tell about your experiences in China? Do you have practical travel tips you would like to pass on to other travellers? Have you taken high-quality photographs which you feel other readers would appreciate?

We are always happy to receive such contributions and readers whose offerings we find we can use will of course be compensated accordingly. Please contact our Editorial Department for further details.



New Air Routes

The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has just launched its third new air link this year. This is between the capital, Hohhot, and Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province, with a stopover in Baotou further west in Inner Mongolia. The two routes introduced earlier this year are from Hohhot to Guangzhou in Guangdong via Shijiazhuang in Hebei, and from Baotou to Taiyuan in Shanxi via Hohhot.

Air Travel News

There are lots of developments to report this month. Air China has started a new route between Dalian in Liaoning and Hong Kong, with one flight (using a Boeing 767) in each direction every Wednesday. More flights are to be added in August.

An air route has been launched between Ürümqi, capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and Xiamen in Fujian via Xi'an in Shaanxi. Said to be the longest domestic air link, this is a five-hour flight.

Much the same length and time is involved with another recent introduction linking Xinjiang and Fujian on the Ürümqi-Zhengzhou-Fuzhou route. However, one should always bear in mind that it would take at least five days and nights to cover the same distance by train!

Revised departures for charter flights from Hong Kong have been announced. There is now a flight to Xi'an every Tuesday; the Chengdu charter now departs in the afternoon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; departures to Hefei in Anhui are on Monday and Wednesday. In addition, a charter flight to Ningbo in Zhejiang is to be introduced in the near future.

The promised charter link between Hong Kong and Changsha, capital of Hunan, has now been inaugurated. Departures are every Monday and Thursday.

CAAC's Largest Ever Order

It has been reported that the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has placed an order for thirty-six Boeing aircraft and taken out options on the same number again. Worth about US\$4 billion, this is the largest order for aircraft ever placed by the CAAC. The first batch is to be delivered in 1992. The Boeing aircraft will go to Air China, China's international carrier, as well as Southern Airlines, Southwest Airlines and sundry other domestic lines. China has bought 101 Boeings since 1972. This latest order was signed at Boeing's headquarters in Renton, Washington.

In other airline news, China's Eastern Airlines has been accepted as a member of Sita, the international airline telecommunications and information service established in 1949. Eastern is China's second airline to join. The organization has 333 member airlines worldwide.

Shanghai Development at Pudong

China's central government has recently been placing much more emphasis on upgrading and developing the old industrial and commercial centre of Shanghai, once a leader in those fields. One of the key areas is Pudong, east of the River Huangpu. Still largely undeveloped, this is an area of around 300 square kilometres which is to enjoy the benefits of a special economic zone, with a major new container port, an export-oriented manufacturing zone, a foreign investment zone and a bonded zone. Five districts are to be developed starting next year: Waigaoqiao, Qingshi, Lujiazui, Zhoujiadu and Beicai. The intention is not just industrial development, but the establishment of enterprises and joint ventures in the fields of finance, business and trade in general. Information for foreign business executives is available from 33 Zhongshan Dongyi Road, Shanghai.

Buddhist Music Society Formed

This May saw the formation in the Chinese capital of what is said to be China's largest organization devoted to Buddhist music. People from religious, musical and artistic circles have co-operated to found the Beijing Society of Buddhist Music, which has sixty members already and can perform ten different types of Buddhist music.

Penglai Holiday Village

Penglai on the northern tip of the Shandong Peninsula is famous in legend and for the mirages which very occasionally occur there. A holiday village called 'Eight Immortals Residence' has been constructed just below Penglai Pavilion, three kilometres outside the town itself, facing the Huanghai (Yellow Sea) and the Bohai Gulf, at a point believed to be from where the Eight Immortals crossed the sea.

Jiangsu Loves Birds!

In 1982 Jiangsu Province inaugurated its 'Love Birds Week'. Since then, it has managed to increase its number of bird species to 448, an improvement of 58. The coastal province provides favourable climatic and topographic conditions for birdlife, including migratory birds, since it has plenty of marshes, hills, plains and lakes. However, the bird population is affected by environmental pollution and by hunting. Efforts are continuing to control or overcome these aspects and 310 nature reserves and parks have been set up. Video shows and exhibitions are staged to educate the public and relevant lessons have been incorporated in the curriculum of primary and high schools. Providing nesting boxes and tending injured birds have become popular activities — all thanks to this event which takes place from April 20-26 each year.

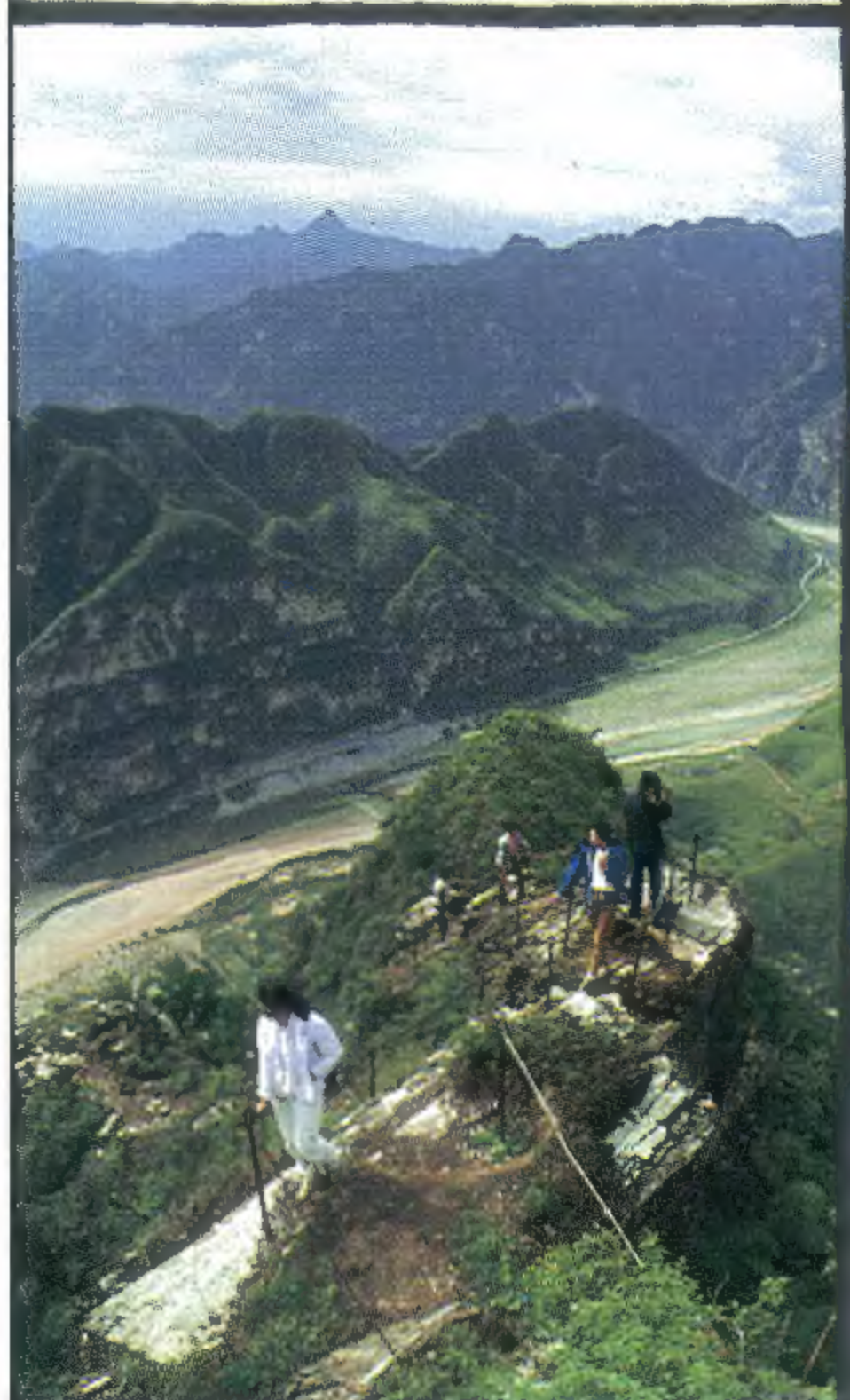
Qigong Tours

A new twenty-day tour has been launched jointly by China International Travel Service (CITS) and Hong Kong Blue Sea Travel Service Ltd. to promote *qigong*. This ancient Chinese breath-control discipline, a form of martial arts, is growing in popularity all over the world. The tour includes visits to Mount Taishan and Qufu in Shandong, Hangzhou in Zhejiang, Shanghai, Xi'an in Shaanxi, Guilin in Guangxi, Guangzhou in Guangdong, etc. Apart from instruction in the basics of *qigong* and *taijiquan* (Chinese shadow-boxing), tourists have the opportunity to watch demonstrations by masters of the discipline — painting with *qigong*, *qigong* therapy, curiosities such as cooking meat with the electricity coursing through a master's body, and much more. There will also be a chance to sample a meal based on the dictates of traditional Chinese medicine.

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN HEBEI

Wrapped around China's national capital, Hebei Province on the North China Plain can offer sites of great antiquity as well as modern industrial developments. In this issue we concentrate on areas south and west of Beijing:

NEXT
ISSUE



- **Nostalgia for the Past: In the Land of Yan and Zhao**
- **Lake Baiyangdian — The Waters Have Returned**
- **Cave-Temples of the Northern Qi**
- **Reproductions of Cizhou Ware**
- **Three Days at Yesanpo**

Travel Accident Insurance

It has been reported that the National Tourism Administration and the People's Insurance Company of China have decided to provide accident insurance in China for foreign visitors. This will be done through the foreign affairs departments of Chinese travel agencies. A traveller staying in China for a period of up to twenty days will be charged a premium of 20 FEC, with payment of 1 FEC for each additional day. The maximum payout is 120,000 FEC for severe injury or death, 8,000 FEC for medical bills, and 10,000 FEC for transport home in case of death.

One More Autonomous County

The state council has just approved the establishment of Yunnan Province's twenty-ninth autonomous county — the Zhenyuan Yi, Hani and Lahu Autonomous County. Located southwest of the provincial capital, Kunming, and west of the Ailao Mountains, the county has a population of over 100,000 including around 88,000 members of the Yi, Hani and Lahu minorities.

Two-Day Tour in Guilin Area

Since May 1990 the Guilin tourism authorities of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have been organizing a two-day tour along the River Lijiang by boat, from Yangshuo to Fuli. Apart from the world-famous karst scenery along the way, there is time to enjoy performances given by local minority peoples such as the Zhuang and Dong and to try Dong oiled tea, for example. Overnight accommodation is in tents.

Temple of Heaven Waxworks

Visitors to the Altar of Heaven in Tiantan (Temple of Heaven) Park in southern Beijing can now also see the Waxworks Museum. This museum, with an area of 4,600 square metres, contains fifty-three wax effigies of some of China's most famous personalities: Huangdi (the legendary Yellow Emperor), Confucius, Dr Sun Yat-sen.... The main hall concentrates on three basic categories: politics, technology/science, and culture. A second phase is planned.

Laiyuan Tourist Zone

After three years of preparations, the Liangcheng (Cool City) Tourist Zone has now opened to the public in Laiyuan County, around 180 kilometres southwest of Beijing, in Hebei Province. Its name comes from the fact that it is cool here even in the summertime, with an average temperature of 21.7°C. The tourist zone covers an area of 420 square kilometres and is divided into eight sections comprising, in all, 276 sites and beauty spots such as the Lesser Huangshan Mountains, the Yunpun Grottoes, Ten Falls Gorge, etc.

Bridge over the Yarlung Zangbo

Another bridge, the fourth, over the River Yarlung Zangbo in Tibet has been completed, this one at Qüxü south of Lhasa. The new 120-kilometre road between Qüxü and Dagzhuka scheduled to open this October is part of an upgraded 700-kilometre highway linking the region with Nepal. When finished, it will shorten the route between Lhasa and Xigazê in Back Tibet by some eighty kilometres.

The gateway to Chinese patent medicine



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